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15 Weekly Review

Gloria Steinem on Clinton



7 Arts & Entertainment

Designs on the Oscars



24 Sports

Utah, UNC reach Final Four

INDEX

Arts & Entertainment	7
Business	18
Crossword	23
Movies/TV	23
Opinion	8
Sports	24



UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visit the old part of Damascus yesterday. (Reuters)

Cabinet nixes proposed US plan

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The cabinet sent a strong signal to Washington yesterday rejecting America's reported proposal for a 13% redeployment from the West Bank.

Nearly all cabinet ministers insisted that a withdrawal from 10 percent of the area is the most that can be undertaken without endangering security.

This position applies to the duration of the prospective interim agreement with the Palestinian Authority and leaves the extent of any subsequent redeployments to be determined during final-status talks.

The decision not only falls far short of the US proposal but also that of PA demands for at least a 20% pullback.

A senior government source

IDF generals to hold top-level meeting with Palestinians, Page 2

stressed that, according to the Hebron Agreement and the accompanying letter submitted by former secretary of state Warren Christopher, the scope of the projected withdrawal can be deter-

mined exclusively by Israel and is not negotiable.

The source confirmed that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu had two telephone conversations with US President Bill Clinton over the weekend, during which it was agreed that US peace envoy Dennis Ross would visit later this week for talks with Israeli and PA officials.

He also disclosed that Clinton agreed that a US plan designed to break the current deadlock will not be publicized until next month at the earliest.

Several of the ministers were outspoken in their opposition to the US recommendation that the pro-

jected pullback result in the evacuation of 13% of Areas B and C.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani contended that it should be between 5% and 10% and that any more "would be harmful to security" and would entail taking unnecessary risks.

"Even though I belong to the political center, I have not lost my head!" Kahalani said.

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy said national interests would be impaired if a 13% redeployment were implemented. Those who live in the settlements would be endangered most of all.

See **CABINET**, Page 5

Syria muzzles Lebanon on 425

By DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

Syria has apparently instructed Lebanese leaders to refrain from making any extraneous comments on Israel's proposal to pull the IDF out of south Lebanon in the framework of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

The order was imposed,

according to senior Lebanese analysts, during the mini-summit in Damascus last week prior to the visit to the region by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Lebanese newspapers complained at the time about what they described as a news blackout on the discussions between Syrian President Hafez Assad and senior officials and the Lebanese govern-

ment.

Leaving Lebanon in Peace group plans public campaign, Page 2

Since then, there has been a marked similarity of content in the

official statements and comments made to reporters by Lebanese officials, especially on the 425 initiative.

The analysts noted that the move appeared to be designed to reassert Syria's role on the Lebanon issue and ensure it remains in control of the situation.

See **SYRIA**, Page 5

More presidential pardons for jubilee

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

President Ezer Weizman will grant considerably more individual pardons during the jubilee year, but there will be no legislation for a general amnesty.

Moreover, presidential pardons will be given only to those who have already been convicted, not to those who are still being tried.

This was decided at a meeting yesterday attended by Weizman, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, State Attorney Edna Arbel, Police Insp.-Gen. Yehuda Wilk, Prisons Service

Commissioner Amos Azani, and representatives of the IDF and the General Security Service.

"There will be many more - and there should be many more - pardons because we have to mark the jubilee year by showing mercy," Weizman said.

He said that all types of convicts - including murderers, rapists, and drug and security offenders - would be eligible to request pardons, which would be granted on the basis of the president's powers under the law.

"Arabs will not be discriminated against," Weizman added.

See **PARDONS**, Page 5

Wiley: White House is making me look crazy

By KALPANA SRINIVASAN

WASHINGTON (AP) - A former White House volunteer defended the letters she sent to President Bill Clinton after their November 1993 meeting at which she alleges he made a crude sexual advance.

In an interview in the issue of *Newsweek* that hits the newsstands today, Kathleen Wiley says the White House has tried to undermine her character by releasing letters, friendly in tone, that she sent Clinton after the alleged encounter. "They're trying to make me look like a wacko," Wiley told the magazine.

Wiley also said there is nothing improper about those letters, and that she simply was attempting to secure a job.

"I never hid those letters. They were my way of saying, 'Hello, I'm still out here. I need a job,'" Wiley says. "I had made a decision that I was going to put that incident behind me. I made that choice, and I'm allowed to make that choice."

See **WILEY**, Page 5

Two-day Independence Day

Israel will celebrate its 50th anniversary of independence for two consecutive days, starting from Wednesday evening April 29, through Friday, May 1, in accordance with a government decision taken yesterday at the behest of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Legislation to this effect is due to be drawn up by a ministerial committee, for submission to the Knesset.

The unprecedented two-day celebration was recommended by Netanyahu on the grounds that the state's 50th anniversary "is a unique milestone in the nation's history."

Jay Bushinsky

Researchers clone gene linked to the spread of cancer

By JUDY SIEGEL

Researchers in Rehovot and Jerusalem have discovered and cloned a human gene responsible for the production of an enzyme that plays a major role in the spread of tumor cells.

They have also produced a genetically engineered version of this crucial enzyme.

The achievement is expected soon to play a major role in pre-

dicting which secondary tumors would be the most aggressive and would therefore require more powerful treatment.

The breakthrough could also lead to the development of enzyme inhibitors that could prevent tumor cells from proliferating, and drugs for other diseases.

An application for patenting the recombinant enzyme and the gene code is in the process of being filed in the US by researchers at InSight, a three-year-old company in Rehovot, and the tumor biology research unit, headed by Prof. Israel Vlodavsky, a cell biologist at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, who received its "Outstanding Scientist Award" for 1997.

News of the discovery was published yesterday in the *Hed Hadassah* newsletter. It is expected

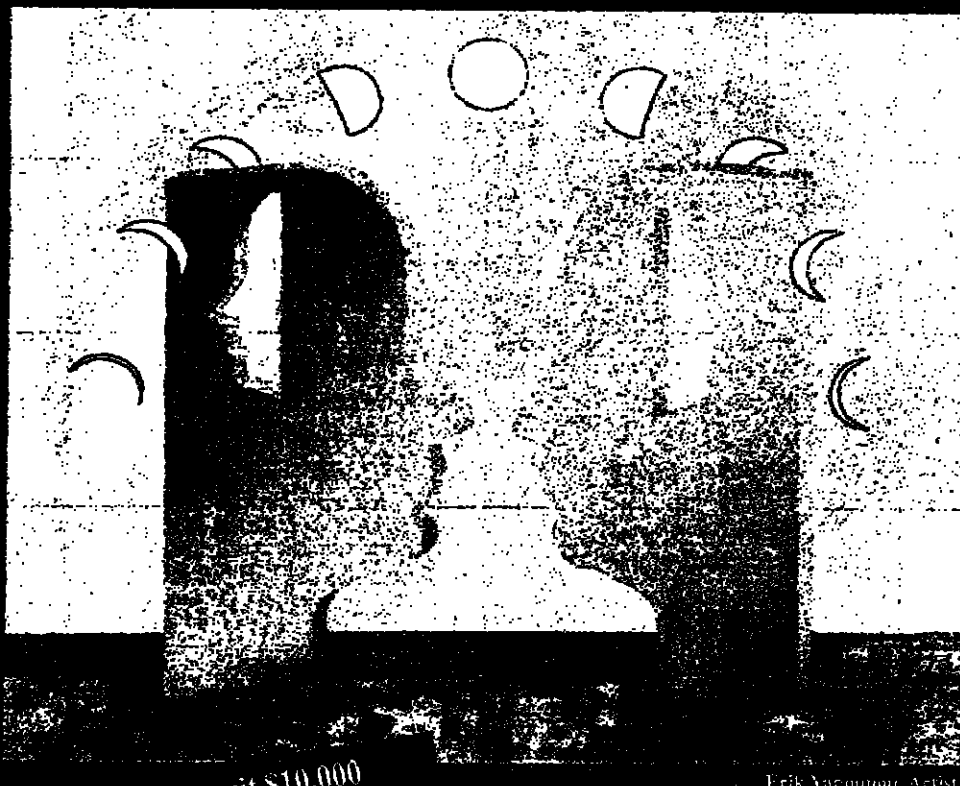
to be presented by the researchers in June at a US conference.

More than half of newly diagnosed cancer patients have secondary tumors, or metastases, which are often undetectable and can cause death. Virtually all deaths from cancers of the colon, breast, and many other organs are caused not by the primary tumor but by its offshoots elsewhere in the body.

Malignant cells usually invade blood vessels and pass into the extracellular matrix. Vlodavsky's work, which began 15 years ago, proved that the ability of tumor cells to invade their surroundings depends on the activity of a cellular enzyme called heparanase, which breaks down a main component of the vascular wall called heparan sulfate.

See **CANCER**, Page 5

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NEWS

in brief

Belarus envoy visits Ma'ale Adumim

In what may have been the first public visit to a settlement across the Green Line by a diplomat accredited to Israel, Belarus's envoy Genads M. Lavitski visited Ma'ale Adumim last night, according to Chana Falik, editor of the town's monthly newspaper *Ma'ale Adumim Connector*.

Lavitski, a guest of town council member Boris Grossman, met with 45 immigrants from Belarus and Mayor Benny Kashriel. "I believe this is the first time that an ambassador accredited to the state of Israel visited a settlement publicly," said Eytan Benisur, director-general of the Foreign Ministry. A senior official contended that several ambassadors have visited settlements before, but secretly. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Hecht to be allowed into country

Interior Minister Eliahu Suissa yesterday informed Rabbi Abraham Hecht, the American rabbi who called publicly for the death of Yitzhak Rabin, that he and six other US Jewish right-wing activists who had been barred from the country in late 1995 would now be permitted in.

In response, MK Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz), said that unless Suissa reversed his decision, which contravenes the opinion of the General Security Service, he would petition the High Court of Justice to have it reversed.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said that should Hecht come here, "his visit will be sheer hell for him. We will hound him wherever he goes until he decides to return home in disgrace." *Trim*

Naharayim victims' families to be paid today

The families of the seven Beit Shemesh schoolgirls killed by a Jordanian soldier at Naharayim last year will today receive \$100,000 each from the \$1 million in compensation King Hussein last month asked President Ezer Weizman to divide up as he saw fit.

The remainder will be divided among the families of the wounded, but a formula for this has not yet been decided upon. Sources in Beit Hanassi said this would be determined within a few days. *Trim*

Clinton sends new year's message to Iran

US President Bill Clinton sent a message to Tehran to mark the start of the Iranian new year, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. "President Clinton, for the first time, sent a greeting message for the Iranian nation to welcome the Iranian new year," it said in a brief dispatch late Saturday. The agency gave no other details.

President Mohammed Khatami's office told the Associated Press yesterday it had not received any message from Clinton.

According to *The New York Times*, Clinton was said to be very taken with a letter Khatami sent to him via Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. In the letter, Khatami promised that Iran would respect any Middle East solution that the Palestinians accepted. *AP*

Golan named non-resident envoy to 3 countries

Ambassador to Angola Tamar Golan has been appointed non-resident envoy to three other African states — the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe. Golan, a veteran journalist and author, is widely-regarded as one of the country's leading experts in sub-Saharan Africa. *Jay Bushinsky*

Livnat to US

Communications Minister Limor Livnat was due to leave last night for an official visit to the US. She will discuss political matters at a United Jewish Appeal conference to be attended by 3,000 young leaders from around the country, which will also be addressed by US Vice President Al Gore. Livnat, who may meet privately with Gore, will also tour the world's largest center for satellite communications and address a gathering of Jewish organizational representatives in Toronto. *Judy Siegel*

New York home to several hate groups

Metropolitan New York is home to an unexpected number of hate groups, and the number of such groups in the US has jumped 20 percent over last year, *The New York Times* reported yesterday.

"The general impression is that these groups are a Southern phenomenon, but that hasn't been true for years," said Joseph Roy Sr., of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama. "You find them everywhere."

The center found 474 active hate groups nationwide in 1997, an increase of about 20 percent from 1996, the newspaper reported. *Marilyn Henry*

Netanyahu to visit China in May

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will make an official visit to China from May 26 to May 28. A communique issued by his bureau yesterday said Netanyahu will "be received by the new ruling elite which recently was elected and will discuss with them all of the subjects of mutual interest in the political, economic, technological fields" as well as other unspecified matters. It noted that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is also scheduled to visit China in the spring and that US President Bill Clinton "apparently advanced" the timing of his trip there from the autumn to June. *Jay Bushinsky*

Leaving Lebanon in Peace group plans public campaign

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The council of the Leaving Lebanon in Peace movement is planning a public campaign, including a mass demonstration, to pressure the government to leave Lebanon.

"There cannot be a greater source of satisfaction than the government's realizing we were right in demanding a withdrawal from Lebanon, and that its objection to the idea was wrong," movement chairman MK Yossi Beilin (Labor) said yesterday. The council includes 10 MKs —

Beilin, Haim Ramon, Nissim Zivili, Dalia Itzik, Yael Dayan, and Yona Yahav of Labor; Dedi Zucker and Naomi Hazan of Meretz; Yehuda Lankri of Gesher; and Zvi Weinberg of Yisrael Ba'aliya — and other public figures.

Beilin said the council intends to present a detailed program for leaving Lebanon to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Labor Party leader Ehud Barak next week, focusing on security aspects, "so that the decision makers understand the issues at hand."

He said the various proposals to leave Lebanon raised in the cabi-

net by Ariel Sharon, Yitzhak Mordechai, and Moshe Katsav "are vague and have no chance of being realized. There is something pathetic about them. Sharon wants a unilateral withdrawal, but in stages; Mordechai wants a staged withdrawal under an agreement, when it is clear no agreement will be reached; and Katsav wants a bit of both, the worst of each plan."

Yossi Vadana, head of Shvachim Panorama, spoke of the turn-around in public opinion since the movement "brought the issue out of the closet" and turned it into a legitimate topic of debate.

He noted a majority favors leaving Lebanon with security arrangements, and after Sharon's withdrawal proposal most people are for leaving even without an agreement with Syria and Lebanon. Polls indicate 53 percent of the population, and more than 60% of the Jewish population, supports leaving Lebanon.

Reuven Merhav, a former director-general of the Foreign Ministry and senior Mossad officer, said the evacuation of southern Lebanon will be in stages over a few weeks or months and will be based on the Taif Accords which the Syrians

and Lebanese reached in 1989.

Weinberg said all those who object to withdrawal base it on Syria's objection. "Now, following Sharon and Mordechai's statements, Syria for the first time is confused and uneasy, and we have a chance it will agree and not sabotage our evacuation from Lebanon," he said.

He added "the French and Europeans are confused, too. They're worried we might suddenly leave Lebanon. Maybe Syria will even agree to resume negotiations with Israel without prior conditions."

Amending Golan Law back on agenda

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The Knesset Law Committee will today discuss a proposed amendment to the Golan Heights Law which would require a two-thirds majority to alter the law.

The amendment was proposed by MK Eliezer Zandberg (Tsomet) and passed its preliminary reading. At the time, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and several ministers voted in favor, although the cabinet had taken a decision to oppose it.

Law Committee chairman Hanan Porat said that he had decided to put the amendment on today's agenda, ahead of other proposed legislation, since the issue is an important one.

"The slightest mention of Syria in the news activates Porat and he has rushed to pull out the amendment and wave it about," MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz) said.

"This government's talking with four different tongues. Netanyahu wants negotiations with Syria over the Golan Heights; [National Infrastructure Minister Ariel] Sharon wants an agreement in Lebanon without Syria; [Defense Minister Yitzhak] Mordechai wants an agreement in Lebanon in conjunction with Syria; and the National Religious Party wants to make it clear to the Syrians that they are wasting their time and therefore they wish to beef-up the Golan Heights Law."



Circus break

A Lebanese youth gets a close-up view of an elephant yesterday when some 400 children from the security zone were treated to a circus performance in Kiryat Shmuna yesterday. Some of the adults expressed concern over the debate about Israel's continued presence in Lebanon and how this would affect civilians in southern Lebanon. *(Aviva Shapiro/Israel Sun)*

IDF, PA security officials to meet

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Top Palestinian security officers in the West Bank plan to focus today's meeting with IDF generals on the investigation into the shooting deaths of three workers at the Tarkumiya roadblock this month.

The IDF, however, insists that the meeting, the first high-level gathering in several weeks, will focus on improving security cooperation. A security source said there were no plans to hand over any results from the inquiry into the shootings.

Another source indicated that if asked, IDF officials would say that the soldiers had abided by open-fire regulations. "If they ask we will inform them of the investigation," said the source. "But it is not yet completed."

Col. Z. commander of the Bethlehem Brigade, is expected to submit a report on the March 11 incident later this week.

Participating in the meeting will be OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan, Civil Administration head Brig.-Gen. David Shahaf and the IDF commander in Judea and Samaria, Brig.-Gen. Itzik Eitan. Israeli police officials may also attend,

security sources said.

"We want to increase cooperation to reach better security, and calm the territory," an IDF officer said.

The commander of Palestinian forces in the West Bank, Brig.-Gen. Haj Ismail Jaber, said, "The most important issue on the agenda is to hear from the Israeli side the report on the Tarkumiya massacre."

But Jaber said the Palestinians were skeptical about the inquiry's results, since three paratroopers accused of the shootings had been released from custody.

Jaber said the Palestinians also plan to raise the shooting death of a Palestinian boy in Hebron last week and some incidents with the settlers, as well as road construction and settlement building.

Jaber will be joined by Brig.-Gen. Abdul Razak Yehiya, Brig.-Gen. Tawfik Tirawi, the head of Palestinian intelligence in the West Bank, and other senior PA officers.

Jabril Rajoub, head of Palestinian Preventive Security, whose cousin was among those killed in Tarkumiya, is reportedly boycotting the meeting.

Israeli security sources said Rajoub was not invited to today's meeting.

Crashed Cobra stuck under stormy seas

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Due to stormy seas, IDF salvage teams have not yet been able to retrieve the wreckage of the Cobra attack helicopter that crashed last week.

Salvage teams had hoped to be able to recover the main body of the wreckage yesterday but had to call off the work.

"We are waiting for good weather," said OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliahu. "We have to do it carefully and make a big effort to try to remove the smallest pieces we can find, because it could very well be that the malfunction is hidden in some small piece."

Speaking to high-school students in Beit She'an, Ben-Eliahu said the apparent increase in air crashes is an illusion; in the past such accidents were simply not publicized. He said that the number of accidents has actually decreased.

Brig.-Gen. Shmuel Eldar and Lt. Ilan Gur were killed on March 15 when the tail rotor of their Cobra came off and the chopper crashed into the sea.

An IAF colonel has been appointed to head the internal inquiry into the crash and experts from Bell Industries, which manufactures the helicopter, are here to help determine what happened.

Until the cause is found, all of the IAF's Cobras have been

grounded. The Cobra has seen an enormous amount of action in Lebanon recently, but the IAF has other attack aircraft to replace it temporarily.

Ben-Eliahu also said the IAF could help to provide security along the northern border, without

regard to where ground forces are deployed.

"If it is asked by the decision makers, the IAF will know how to give an answer that will provide security in both instances, either with the IDF in the security zone or out of it," he said.

ISRAEL'S BATTLE WITH THE WORLD

Moshe Raviv, Israel's former Ambassador in Britain, speaks about his 40 years as a diplomat, in an interview with Amotz Asa-El, Associate Editor of the Jerusalem Post.

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RUTH CHERNOFSKY ז"ל

Her modesty and devotion were ever present throughout her many years of devoted service to Emunah.

We extend our sincere condolences to her husband, her sons and their families.

Prina Herzog President

Dr. Sylvia Schonfeld National President Emunah of America

Hana Melamed Chairperson World Emunah

To: Charles Hexter

Our deepest sympathies on the loss of your

Father ז"ל

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IDF arrests four Palestinians in fracas over illegal home

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

IDF troops arrested four Palestinians yesterday who tried to prevent Civil Administration officials from confiscating equipment being used to rebuild a house near Hebron.

The structure, belonging to the al-Atrash family, had been demolished by the IDF two weeks ago as an illegal structure.

Civil Administration Spokesman for the West Bank Lt. Peter Lerner said force was used against

the family after it resisted the confiscation of construction tools. He said that four family members were detained for questioning.

Lerner added that the demolition had been ordered after a High Court ruling on the issue some weeks ago.

Palestinian witnesses alleged that excess force was used in yesterday's arrests. Video footage taken by Reuters cameramen showed Yusef al-Atrash's wife being dragged away by soldiers.

The al-Atrash family started to

rebuild the home last Friday with peace activists, after having camped in three tents at the site since the house was bulldozed.

Civil Administration officials warned Friday that the home would be demolished again as the family still lacked a building permit.

Al-Atrash said he had documents showing he owned 26 dunams at the site. He claimed the house was first demolished in 1988 and that he had gone into debt trying to rebuild it.



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Meretz MK Ran Cohen holds a bunch of flowers during yesterday's meeting between his party and Geshet in Tel Aviv. Geshet MK Maxim Levy (center) and Meretz MK Yossi Sarid are sitting next to Cohen.

Meretz okays merger with Geshet for Histadrut elections

By SARAH HONIG

The Meretz Council yesterday unanimously approved running on a joint list with Geshet in the Histadrut elections scheduled for June.

The dovish religious group Meimad is slated to join the merger, while Yisrael Ba'Aliya has also been invited into the coalition which is to be headed by Geshet MK Maxim Levy.

There were expectations that his brother,

Geshet leader and former foreign minister David Levy, would also appear at the Meretz forum, but he chose to stay away.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid announced plans to confer today with Geshet MK David Magen who hotly opposes the joint list claiming it could cost Geshet dearly in the next Knesset elections.

"Our voters are Likud-oriented. They are all firmly on the political Right. They will not forgive us if we strike a partnership with

Meretz. To them this is treason. The Histadrut elections are not important enough to risk alienating our powerbase," Magen told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

He said his opposition would soften if Yisrael Ba'Aliya joins the list as well, "since then it would not be a Meretz marriage only."

Sarid said he would seek to "win over Magen to a degree that he would not only accept our partnership, but campaign for it."

Barak, Cohen patch up differences

MK Yehezkel angrily quits as organizer of Labor Party's mayoral primaries

By SARAH HONIG

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak met yesterday with party secretary-general Ra'anana Cohen in an effort to bury the hatchet. The two have been quarreling incessantly since Barak hand-picked Cohen for the post.

After their meeting, the two again announced that they "will now embark on a new path of cooperation and set up new models for working together." However, such announcements have been made several times in the past few weeks after similar meetings, only to be followed almost immediately by more rancor.

The meeting followed a gathering of Barak supporters last week at which Cohen was attacked and demands were made to curtail his authority and transfer his power to Barak.

Another bone of contention arose yesterday, when MK Avi Yehezkel angrily quit as organizer of Labor's mayoral primaries, charging that Cohen had been "sabotaging the primaries, making sure that they will never take place. There is no way they can be held as scheduled at the end of April."

Cohen raised temperatures in the party because of a recent interview to the Jerusalem weekly *Kol Ha'ir* in which he doubted Barak's ability to wrest the premiership from Benjamin Netanyahu, charging that "we have Barak posing for photographs with foreign ambassadors instead of furthering



Ra'anana Cohen

Labor's cause."

The big break between the two came several weeks ago when Cohen refused to turn over money Labor receives under the Parties' Funding Law to an association to promote Barak for prime minister. The association, headed by former Tel Aviv mayor Shlomo Lahat, is officially billed as a non-partisan volunteer group. Cohen says it should not be funded by Labor.

Some Labor MKs, Yehezkel included, plan to propose at the party political bureau and central committee that Cohen's authority be severely curtailed.

MK Hagai Merom, who sought the secretary-generalship, charged that "Barak has no one to blame but himself. He made sure that Ra'anana would be elected. He sabotaged the campaigns of others. He preferred Ra'anana because he wanted a Sephardi and a yes-man. It turns out that Ra'anana is not

quite as docile as Barak figured."

Elit Wohlgelesner adds: Former Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek has written Barak, asking him to support the candidacy of Shimon Shetret, who is running for mayor as the head of Kollek's old party, One Jerusalem.

According to Kollek's longtime advisor Rafi Davara, the letter was written a week ago but only publicized yesterday, after it became clear that Labor is still undecided on a candidate after many months of wavering.

"For eight months, Uzi Baram told us that he wanted to study the situation, and then he told us that he is sure that [Mayor Ehud] Olmert will win the election, and he didn't want to run," said Davara. "Now we read that Labor is asking him to reconsider. They have been hesitating over a candidate for over a year! We have a candidate - Shetret - who is a fighter, and has all the qualifications."

Kollek wrote Barak that Labor should not make the same mistake that was made five years ago, when Kollek lost the election to Olmert, but should join with One Jerusalem "to fight for Jerusalem, to change the whole situation of the last five years. We don't want to wait, we don't have the time."

Davara said that Kollek didn't want to run in '92, but "he was forced to run under pressure from the party and prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. And now he's telling Barak and other Labor leaders, 'Don't make more mistakes in Jerusalem.'"

PM decries domestic violence following Hoftman murder

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that he was horrified by the murder of Ayala Hoftman in Holon, and vowed to battle against the phenomenon of domestic violence.

"I was shocked, like all of the other citizens of Israel, to hear of this terrible murder," Netanyahu said, calling the death of Hoftman, who was beaten to death with a hammer by her ex-husband over the weekend, "another incident in the string of murders of women at the hands of their partners or husbands."

He warned those who "commit crimes within the walls of their homes" that "they will not escape punishment" and called on "anyone who is suffering from this or any type of violence, not to remain silent. Together we will fight and together we can triumph."

Meanwhile, members of Hanocho Hoftman's family have been

protesting his depiction as a chronically violent wife-beater.

His nephew, Nir Hoftman, a medical student in the US, said in a telephone interview that he views his family tragedy as reflecting on the failure of the Israeli mental health policies, not law enforcement.

"This man has been very, very ill for a year, since he suffered a heart attack and a stroke. He tried to kill himself twice since, the second time as recently as a week-and-a-half ago. Yet, I've had to beg doctors to treat this man as a depressed person."

Hoftman told his brother, Moshe, by telephone last Saturday that he had escaped from the Abarbanel psychiatric hospital following his hospitalization after his suicide attempt.

"What we worried about was the danger he posed to himself, and as it turned out he was a danger to others as well," Nir Hoftman said. "I told doctor after doctor that

this man needs to be taken into a locked psychiatric ward and evaluated," he said. "It seems that it took him murdering his wife to do so."

Moshe Hoftman said he knew his brother to be a gentle person and never heard complaints of violence against Ayala from her or members of her family.

"I was not aware of anything violent that was going on. My wife and I loved Ayala. She was a wonderful wife, terrific mother, and we believed it was a blessing for Hanocho to have her around him."

"This horrible incident came as a terrible shock. But we cannot hold a mentally disabled person responsible for it, this was an irrational man who never knew what he was doing."

According to WIZO, the Hoftman murder is the fourth murder of a woman by her husband or partner since the beginning of the year.

PALESTINIAN PRESS REVIEW

By MICHAEL SELA

Cook proves the point

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's visit received wide coverage and analysis in the Palestinian press last week.

Israel intentionally created the media crisis over Cook's visit to Har Homa, *Al-Quds* wrote in its editorial.

Support for Cook from his prime minister and from other EU leaders is proof of their awareness that Israeli settlement policy poses a danger to the collapsing peace process, *Al-Quds* continued.

With all the respect to the European efforts, the Palestinians should not expect them to play any more of a role than the US allows them, concluded Talal Okal in *Al-Ayyam*, who finds a connection between Cook's visit and the shooting incident at the Tarkumiya checkpoint.

According to Okal, the soldiers shot under orders, to trigger a new wave of clashes, "and call Europe and other countries to interfere and put out the fire."

Okal suggests reviving the peace process by further isolating Israel internationally and making the world aware of Israel's policies and Palestinian national rights.

Why, in spite of Israel's effort to destroy it, we continue with the peace process? asks Hussein Hijazi in *Al-Ayyam*.

"Because we do not want to give Israel the opportunity to do so... because peace is a Palestinian interest... We want to achieve by diplomatic means what Israel failed to cancel by means of war."

Israel cannot get out of Palestine as she can get out of south Lebanon or as the US and France left Vietnam and Algeria, says Hijazi.

Between Palestine and Israel

there is no alternative other than agreements to develop coexistence such as the Oslo Accords.

Turn the screws

While Netanyahu pressures the US not to issue its own initiative to push the peace process forward, Ashraf al-Ajrami in *Al-Ayyam* believes that no initiative can change the current situation between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Netanyahu is determined to emasculate the Oslo Accords, as demonstrated by the fact that the current negotiations are proceeding in a manner that has no connection to the interim agreement.

As long as Netanyahu's arrogance knows no limits "it seems that no international mediation can change Israel's policy, unless

it includes enough pressure."

Al-Ajrami suggests that the Palestinians failed to "cash in" on the Tarkumiya shooting incident.

"Instead of aggravating the situation, we helped to ease the anger, to prove our good intentions to the world."

"Maybe our exaggerated reliance on the goodwill of the international community has made us forget what kind of mentality and what kind of government we are dealing with."

Equality for Women

"Since when is the support of the ill-treated woman 'blasphemy' and 'prostitution'?" asks Nadir Sa'id in *Al-Ayyam* in a fierce criticism against "those who try to isolate women who want to improve their life."

Citing early marriage, violence, polygamy, poverty, and health as some of the problems plaguing Palestinian women, Sa'id claims that the women's organizations took upon themselves the task of dealing with social problems, as opposed to those who stick to worn-out slogans and concepts.

"Shall we, women and men, continue to see young girls killed for a false claim of family honor? Is there any religious law which permits it? ... Since when is the demand for equal salaries an evil filth?"

According to Sa'id, strength is justice, not threats and incitement.

The anti-women distortion campaign should be considered an incentive to the continued struggle for justice and equality.

US unveils Blackhawk with Israeli avionics

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

The newest IAF helicopter, the troop assault Blackhawk, is to be displayed before Israeli officials today in a "roll out" ceremony at the Sikorsky Corporation's main facility in the United States.

The ultra-modern Blackhawk is the first of 15 new aircraft being purchased in a deal worth \$110 million. The funding for the troop carrier comes from the \$1.8 billion annual US military aid grant.

The Blackhawk is the first helicopter being bought from the US to come already fitted with locally-developed avionics, so that once the first choppers arrive in May they will be ready for immediate deployment, Sikorsky officials said.

Previously, new aircraft have

been gutted upon arrival and refitted with Israeli systems.

The new model S-70A-50 is the top of the line and is equipped with powerful twin General Electric turbo-shaft engines.

Besides ferrying troops to battle, the Blackhawk can also provide combat support and evacuate the wounded.

The IAF already has 10 Blackhawks of the UH-60A type which were provided as surplus after the Gulf War.

The 15 new choppers are made to fly soldiers into combat and are designed to withstand small arms fire and most medium-caliber high-explosives.

Designed 20 years ago, over 1,500 of the multi-role Blackhawks are in use by the US Armed Forces.

Ilan Biran, director-general of the Defense Ministry, departed yesterday to attend the ceremony in Stratford, Connecticut.

Biran is also scheduled to meet with US Secretary of Defense William Cohen in advance of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's visit to Washington on Wednesday.

Biran also plans to meet with other American officials on issues including IDF modernization plans and long-term defense capabilities.



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The Jewish Agency for Israel Allocations Seminar

We apologize for the last-minute cancellation of the informational seminar at Givat Haviva, which was to have taken place on Wednesday, March 18. The heavy snowfall in Jerusalem made it impossible for organizers and speakers to attend.

Alternatively, we are organizing two meetings in the Jewish Agency building, 48 King George Street, Jerusalem, in Weizmann Hall (3rd floor), on:

Monday, March 30, 1998 10:00am-12:00 Noon
and Wednesday, April 1, 1998 2:00pm-4:00pm

Kindly call 02-620-2450/1 in order to register for either one of the meetings.

Court accepts Ben-Ari plea bargain

By BATSEVA TSUR and Nim

The most extensive fraud and bribery trial in the country's history opened yesterday with the Jerusalem District Court formally accepting a plea-bargain between Zvi Ben-Ari, formerly known as Gregory Lerner, and the state prosecution.

The deal called for Ben-Ari, who has been detained for almost a year, to plead guilty to 13 counts while the state demands a six-year prison sentence and a NIS 5 million fine.

However, the court is not bound by the plea-bargain, and the defense will be allowed to ask for a more lenient sentence, advocate Moshe Yisrael said. At the same time, the court will have the authority to decide a more severe sentence, he admitted.

Ben-Ari was charged in September on 15 counts of fraud, aggravated fraud and bribery in connection with an attempt to defraud banks in Israel, Russia, and Europe of some \$100 million, while allegedly attempting to set up a bank to launder Russian mafia money in Israel. His trial, due to have begun yesterday, was expected to last several years and he would reportedly have faced a minimum of 10 years' imprisonment if found guilty.

Instead, the court yesterday, within an hour, accepted the plea-bargain arrangement worked out with State Attorney Edna Arbel. Both sides will make their arguments in court next month.

Until yesterday, Ben-Ari and his lawyers had denied all charges. Advocate Yoram Shefiel, who had vociferously attacked the authorities during repeated and extended remand hearings, had charged that Ben-Ari was the victim of an organized campaign to discredit immigrant entrepreneurs.

He said the defense would ask for leniency at Ben-Ari's sentencing next month.

In the deal made formal yesterday, two original charges — of attempting to bribe former MK Gideon Saguy and of obtaining a fraudulent loan from the Bank of Israel — were dropped. Still among the charges in the revised indictment, however, are attempts to bribe Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky, former premier Shimon Peres and MK Nissim



Zvi Ben-Ari sits handcuffed in Jerusalem District Court as his plea-bargain is accepted yesterday.

day, two original charges — of attempting to bribe former MK Gideon Saguy and of obtaining a fraudulent loan from the Bank of Israel — were dropped. Still among the charges in the revised indictment, however, are attempts to bribe Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky, former premier Shimon Peres and MK Nissim

Zvili, as well as banks in Israel and abroad.

On the other hand, a charge of defrauding Russian banks to the tune of \$100 million was reduced to \$48m.

Advocate Moshe Yisrael, who joined Shefiel's team recently and who signed the plea-bargain on behalf of Ben-Ari, yesterday

thanked the state attorney for the "fair and balanced" way in which it was negotiated.

Shefiel, on the other hand, refused to comment when asked whether Ben-Ari had agreed to plead guilty for fear he would have been convicted of the original charges.

"There is a time to talk and a

time to hold one's tongue. I am waiting for the sentence before speaking," said Shefiel.

Ben-Ari was brought into court with his hands and feet shackled and sat with a stony face, listening to the court proceedings, translated for him by an interpreter.

Neither he nor family members made any comment.

Plea bargain a useful legal tool

In approving the plea bargain between Zvi Ben-Ari and State Attorney Edna Arbel, the Jerusalem District Court is not necessarily saying it was the correct result. Approving it does not even mean the court won't sentence him to longer than the six years specified.

Under well-established precedents, the court is not bound by the plea bargain, and must clarify this to the defendant prior to accepting his guilty plea. The legal and moral responsibility for sentencing the defendant remains with the court.

This does not mean the plea bargain has no weight on the court's final decision. The rule is that the court will examine the deal and uphold it if there are no "special circumstances."

One celebrated case in which the court refused to honor a plea bargain was that of former MK Yair Levy. He agreed to a plea bargain in which the prosecution would ask for no more than 40 months in prison. The judge, writing that he had lost sleep over the issue, decided this was insufficient and sentenced him to five years in prison, later reduced to four years by the Supreme Court.

In the Levy case, the Supreme Court held that in evaluating a plea bargain, a court should compare the punishment which would have been given in a comparable, no-plea case to that agreed by the parties.

A big gap between the two would lead to rejecting the plea bargain, because of the need to deter this defendant as well as potential future criminals.

Contrary to popular belief, most criminal prosecutions in the world end in plea bargains. This allows the criminal justice system to act more efficiently.

The most important criticism of plea bargaining is that it may cause innocent defendants to

admit guilt to a lesser charge, because they cannot afford the chance of being convicted at trial.

This, however, seems inapplicable to the present case, where the remaining charges and the agreed maximum sentence are still quite heavy. Since the main responsibility for entering the plea bargain is Arbel's, a further examination of her considerations is expected, in addition to the rather dry legal examination.

There is, in this highly publicized case, a public issue as well. Ben-Ari has been accused of (but not charged with) murder; he has been depicted as the local boss of a Russian mafia. The agreed maximum sentence puts him outside the major league of criminals.

It is important, however, to point out that some of the remaining charges, to which Ben-Ari has now pleaded guilty, are quite serious. He has now admitted he attempted to bribe the prime minister and other politicians, and defrauded banks.

The politicians now demanding an investigation of the prosecution for mistreating him should be advised that these are serious crimes.

The writer is a lecturer at the Radzyner Law School, Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya.

MK Stern: Ben-Ari case stigmatized Russian olim

By LIAT COLLINS

Leaks from the police on the Ben-Ari trial have stigmatized all immigrants from the former Soviet Union and cause them to seriously doubt the rule of law here, MK Yosi Stern (Yisrael Ba'Aliya) said yesterday. He called on the police to reexamine the way the case had been handled.

"In the 17 years I've been here, there has not been another financial criminal who created so many

myths and fears and against whom there were such attempts to prove his guilt, with journeys abroad to find evidence against an Israeli citizen living here in Israel. It didn't happen with [Shmuel] Flatto-Sharon [from France] or others who came here from places where they had cheated the tax authorities or stock exchange," said Stern.

"The state never intervened against them. There were trials and criminal procedures of some sort or

another, but nothing more than that. In this case, there was a campaign of fear and denigration and broad attacks on the organizations of immigrants from the former Soviet Union and interference in the private lives of many of us, including myself. And all this so someone can be sentenced to up to six years. The offenses are serious, but not unusual for financial criminals."

Stern said even the charges that Ben-Ari tried to buy political influ-

ence or grant bribes to gain permit to open a bank stemmed from the way that he had done it openly in the way of a new immigrant rather than more subtly. "It's serious. But the question is does all this justify the expense... the NIS 17,000 invested in a special prison cell and the conditions in which he was held to ensure he didn't escape."

The police spokesman said the police does not respond to statements by MKs.

Study: Murder rate lower among Russian olim than natives

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The murder rate among immigrants from the former Soviet Union is lower than the rate among native-born Israelis, and their overall pattern of violent mortality is similar, according to a study released yesterday by Prof. Yehuda Hiss, director of the Institute for Forensic Medicine at Abu Kabir.

The study, prepared by the institute and Tel Aviv University's Sackler Faculty of Medicine, found that contrary to what many believe, there are fewer murders among the immigrants and the high rate of violent death that exists in the former Soviet Union has not been transposed here.

"It is commonly accepted by researchers that a population that immigrates from one country to another carries its pattern of violent mortality from its country of origin, for at least several years until they are fully acclimated," Hiss explained.

However, in a comparison of the pattern of violent mortality — death via murder or accident — among Jews from the former Soviet Union, native-born Israelis and the native population in the former Soviet Union

between 1990-95, it was found that this did not occur. "We found that the patterns of the Russian immigrants is similar to that of the Israelis, and they even have a lower homicide rate among them," Hiss said. "The situation is much better than in their country of origin, which means they are not as violent as we thought they are."

Hiss said that the percentage of murder victims among Israelis suffering violent deaths between 1990-95 was 14%, while it was 7% among the immigrants from the FSU. In the FSU itself, the figure was a staggering 42%.

Hiss said that the public had a mistaken impression of immigrant violence because "we were focusing on every case, emphasizing it more in the press when it had to do with a Russian immigrant. We began to feel that their murder rate outstripped their number in the population, but when you conduct an objective study, this is not so."

The study evaluated the victims of violent death examined at Abu Kabir between 1990-95, and compared the information with data from the FSU. The margin of error was less than 0.01%, Hiss said.

Police question 'Analyzer' in presence of FBI agents

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Ehud Tannenbaum, the hacker known as "Analyzer" was questioned at length yesterday in the presence of FBI agents, keen to learn of the methods he and his friends used to crack Pentagon computer codes.

Police sources said the interrogation of Tannenbaum, who is suspected of the most organized and systematic attack ever on the Pentagon computer system, is expected to take a long time.

Tannenbaum, 18, of Hod Hasharon, was arrested last Wednesday and has been placed under house arrest.

His targets included NASA, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the US Naval Undersea Warfare Center, US sources said.



Ehud Tannenbaum (Pavel Wolberg/Israel Sun)

Some of Tannenbaum's American victims are considering filing civil suits against him for damages estimated at hundreds of thousands and even millions of dollars.

Several US companies and insti-

tutions, including Internet supplier Net Dex, Western Michigan University, and Harvard, also said Tannenbaum penetrated their computers, causing huge damage.

The FBI suspects him of working with three American partners, with whom he hacked into at least 700 computer systems.

Tannenbaum's US victims were not amused by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's unqualified admiration for his escapades. They said Netanyahu's admiring statements caused harm by encouraging hacking and creating the impression that illegal entry computer systems is something to be proud of.

"This is no game and no joke, hacking causes great damage," Net Dex owner Bill Zain said in *Yedioth Aharanot*. "To me the Analyzer is not a hero, but a vandal."

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Rafi Weizman acquitted of attempted underworld murder

By GALT LIPKIS BECK

Tel Aviv District Court yesterday acquitted Rafi Weizman of attempting to murder underworld figure Ze'ev Rosenstein.

In their verdict, the three-judge panel headed by Judge Edmond Levi, cited reasonable doubt.

Weizman had been charged with attempting to murder Rosenstein on the night of June 30, 1996. According to the

indictment, Weizman fired several shots from a car at Rosenstein on a Tel Aviv street. Rosenstein was hit twice and seriously injured but managed to reach a hospital and survived.

In the car with Weizman were Ilan Aslan and Ya'acov Kahalon who had also been indicted for attempted murder and then released. Shortly afterwards, Kahalon was murdered and Aslan disappeared.

Judges wrote in the 37-page verdict that

there was much incriminating evidence against Weizman and accused him of having lied and of having offered some unconvincing explanations.

But they found that the failure of a witness to identify Weizman prevented the prosecution from proving his guilt beyond a shadow of a doubt.

During the trial, prosecutors claimed that Weizman's motive was connected to the murder of underworld leader Yehzekel

Aslan in 1993 as he was getting into his car outside a Tel Aviv restaurant.

Prosecutors had argued that Yehzekel's brother, Ilan Aslan, as well as Weizman and Kahalon, believed that Rosenstein was involved in Yehzekel Aslan's murder.

As he left the court, Weizman's lawyer, Zvi Avnon, said that his client intends to sue the state for compensation. Weizman said he hoped the police would leave him alone.



Have you seen this car?

Police in Jerusalem are asking the public to come forward with any information regarding a car similar to the above white 1985 Ford Escort, which could help them solve the murder of Noa Eyal, whose body was found in the Ramot forest the night of February 22. The illustration has been made to look like the car that witnesses saw Eyal approach and then enter at Davidka Square, the night of February 21. According to witnesses, the vehicle's side back windows were shaded in black and the back windshield was covered with stickers, including two yellow Golan stickers. Anyone with information is asked to contact their nearest police station, or call (02) 623-1992, or (02) 624-0751 anytime.

(Text: Eli)

Ministry encourages mammograms for religious women

By JUDY SEGEL

Orthodox women have been targeted by the Health Ministry to increase their awareness about the need for early detection of breast cancer.

The ministry will, for the first time, set up a booth promoting self-examination and mammography at the religious consumer fair to be held during the intermediate days of Pessah at the Jerusalem International Convention Center.

The ministry reported recently that since the health funds have been required to send personal invitations for mammograms to female members 50-74, the rate of women getting the breast scans has increased by 30 percent.

However, Orthodox and Arab women are much less likely to go for the exams. In addition, when they contract breast cancer, it is detected much later — and with the resultant higher mortality rate — than in secular women.

The lack of awareness of breast cancer in this group is due to the almost total silence about it in the haredi press and the women's tendency to be modest about their bodies.

Mevasseret absorption center to be shut

By DAN IZENBERG

The Jewish Agency has announced plans to shut the Mevasseret Zion absorption center and has given hundreds of occupants until April 20 to move out.

A few families whose children study in Mevasseret will be allowed to stay through July 1, if they can prove that they have arranged alternative housing for afterwards, an agency spokeswoman said.

The agency plans to hand the center over to its employees' pension fund, which is owned jointly

by the agency and its workers.

The decision has embittered many center residents, including about 50 Russian-speaking families and 20 other individuals who immigrated in September. Although their contracts expired this month, many were caught off guard by the eviction notices.

Initially the agency gave occupants until March 31 to move out, later the deadline was extended until April 20, or after Pessah.

But some immigrants still feel inconvenienced about having to uproot themselves while they are taking vocational courses to

enable them to find jobs. Most said they would like to be able to remain through the summer.

"Because they are in culture shock, the immigrants were detached from reality all this time," said Semion Kaplan, an interpreter for the angry immigrants. "Then, all of a sudden, they are told to get out and they get frightened."

Ya'acov, one of the residents, complained of having to leave the center while taking a preparatory course for medical school which ends on May 6.

"I wanted to live here until I finished the first course and found

out when and where the next course begins," he said. "Now, because of the Jewish Agency decision, I'm in limbo."

Ludmila, a single mother, has a daughter in ninth grade in a Jerusalem high school. "I'm prepared to move to another part of the country where rents are cheaper," she said. "All I want is for my daughter to finish the school year."

Rina, another single mother with two children, needs to take a special course in social work, which is scheduled to begin on April 30. Her daughter also has to take a teaching course, and they had hoped to stay

in Mevasseret until they finished their studies. "Right now, I don't have money or work," she said. "I don't have anything."

"The policy of the Jewish Agency is to get out of Mevasseret," the spokeswoman said. "It is part of a structural change in the Jewish Agency, whereby it is gradually halting its absorption activities and concentrating on immigration, education and settlement."

She said there were plans for 25 of 43 absorption centers once run by the agency to be shut by the end of the year.

A-Sanaa seeks to visit Saddam

By LIAT COLLINS

MK Taleb A-Sanaa (Democratic Arab Party) yesterday sent a fax to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein asking him to permit a visit by him and a group of Israeli Arabs to Baghdad to meet the president. A copy of the fax was also sent to the Iraqi embassy in Jordan.

The fax reportedly said: "Your excellency, dear President Saddam Hussein, greetings on the occasion of the victory over American imperialism," and said he would be "happy to visit you in your palace."

"The aim of the visit would be to explain the position of the Arabs in Israel, who support Iraq

as it faces hardship and American oppression," A-Sanaa told Army Radio. He said he wants to take about 10 Israeli Arabs to Iraq next month.

A-Sanaa said the visit has been welcomed by the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, but could be blocked by the Israeli government.

"Israeli officials are asking: How can Arab citizens from Israel, with (four) seats in the Knesset, express solidarity with Iraq, which fired Scud missiles at Israel?" A-Sanaa said.

Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom told Army Radio in response: "It is a strange affair. We will examine the issue. I don't know what reason he has to go there."

"The PA position at present is

divided into the three stages of redeployment, according to the stipulations laid down in the Oslo Accords and Hebron protocol.

These three stages must be implemented in a short time, as the dates they were due to be implemented have already passed us by," he said.

Abdul-Rahman also said the Palestinians want agreements on the interim-phase issues, including safe passages between the West Bank and Gaza, the Gaza airport and sea port, and prisoner releases.

expressed deep skepticism about the real significance of recent interviews in the Israeli media (regarding the withdrawal offer)," he told a joint news conference with Foreign Minister Perouk Shara.

Annan said implementation of 425 "would clearly require the understanding and cooperation of all concerned."

"In the meantime, official Syrian newspapers continued to

Here come the ratings

By HELEN KAYE

The weekly TV ratings of the Israel Audience Research Board have started coming in. These ratings, compiled automatically by computers reviewing data from the viewing habits of 385 households nationwide, have replaced the telephone surveys Channels 1 and 2 once conducted on a monthly basis.

The data are recorded via Peoplemeters connected to television sets, and then transferred to a central computer. The shows surveyed are all prime time. We plan to publish these ratings every week, listing the top 10 shows.

Program	Day	Channel	Rating
1. Ramat Aviv Gimmel	Wednesday	2	32.2%
2. Shemesh	Thursday	2	31.2%
3. Focus - Rafi Ginat	Shabbat	2	30.9%
4. Yatzpan	Shabbat	2	30.7%
5. Channel 2 News	Mon-Thur	2	29.7% (avg.)
6. Only in Israel	Thursday	2	29.4%
7. Rishon Bebidur	Monday	2	27.8%
8. Yihye Tov (It'll be fine)	Sunday	2	26.6%
8. Candid Camera (Fisfusin)	Sun, Tue	2	26.6%
10. Uvda (Fact)	Sunday	2	26%

CANCER

Continued from Page 1

Compounds that inhibit heparanase were found to inhibit the spread of metastasis in lab animals. The gene was found to be inactive in healthy people. In cancer patients, it "wakes up." The enzyme is especially prominent in people with aggressive cancers.

InSight molecular biologist Dr. Dror Melamed and Vlodavsky said yesterday that their work has paved the way for the development of molecular probes and antibodies for the early detection of tiny metastases of tumor cells in plasma, urine, and other tissue and fluids. Working with the genetically engineered enzyme, the researchers believe they can develop heparanase inhibitors to halt the ability of secondary tumor cells and activated lymphocytes to break out of blood vessels and

reach their target organs.

The discovery fits in well with the booming study of tumor angiogenesis — the growth of new blood vessels around the tumor that supply it with oxygen and nutrients, which makes possible the growth and spread of cancer. Vlodavsky and his colleagues found that angiogenesis can be initiated by substances in the extracellular matrix which are released when the matrix is broken down by heparanase.

The enzyme, added Melamed, has proven to be a vital element not only in solid and non-solid tumors, but also in inflammation. Enzyme inhibitors could also prove important in dealing with diseases such as multiple sclerosis and rheumatic diseases, Melamed said.

The enzyme could also be used to make drugs for wound-healing, the prevention of viral infection, and for fighting the re-clogging of coronary arteries, he said.

NEWS

in brief

Prosecutors demand 35 years for rapist

Prosecutors asked the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday to sentence the son of a leading haredi rabbi to 35 years' imprisonment, after he was convicted of raping and sexually molesting his niece for some eight years, from when she was 9.

Prosecutors noted that the mandatory sentence for rape inside the family is 20 years and for sexual molestation 15 years. This, they noted, was for one incident, while in this case there were dozens, if not hundreds of attacks over several years.

They said that the man took advantage of the fact that the girl's mother was abusive, and that her daughter could not turn to her for help. Sentencing is scheduled for March 31.

Itim

Suspect arrested in rape of 14-year-old mother

Police have arrested a 30-year-old man on suspicion he raped a teenage girl who gave birth yesterday morning to a baby girl at Ha'emek Hospital in Afula.

The 14-year-old girl apparently tried to keep the incident secret, for fear that the assailant, who is a neighbor, would harm her again. She did not tell her parents and managed to keep her pregnancy a secret until Saturday night, when she complained of severe stomach pains and weakness.

Her parents called an ambulance and a Magen David Adom crew immediately saw the girl was in the final stages of labor. At the hospital she told doctors about the rape, and the police were called in.

The police spokesperson said the girl told police she had been raped last summer, and gave a description of the suspect.

Police later arrested the suspect, who resides in the same housing complex as the girl. He is to be brought before a judge today for a remand hearing.

David Rudge

Court asked to reject yeshiva deferment petition

The state yesterday asked the High Court of Justice to reject a petition by attorney Yehuda Ressler asking the defense minister to explain why the granting of draft deferments to yeshiva students should not be changed. Uzi Fogelman, head of the High Court division of the State Attorney's Office, argued that the policy of not drafting yeshiva students is reasonable and that there are no grounds for the court to become involved.

Itim

Diamond bandits sentenced

Haim Hajji, who was convicted of breaking into a car and stealing \$70,000 worth of diamonds, was sentenced to six-and-a-half years in prison and two-and-a-half year's suspended by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday. His accomplices Eitan Buzaglo and Shlomo Abusmil received a seven-and-a-half years in prison and two-and-a-half year's suspended and three years in prison and two year's suspended.

The diamond merchant was in his car at the time of the break-in. The police, who had received information in advance of the planned crime, filmed the act but did not inform the diamond merchant of the information they had. Judge Edna Kaplan-Hegler criticized the police for this.

Galt Lipkis Beck

Absorption Ministry sponsors jubilee film fest

The Absorption Ministry yesterday launched a five-day film festival for the nation's jubilee at cinematheques in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa. The event features movies and short films about immigration and absorption. The aim is to show how much new immigrants, and veteran Israelis — many of whom were also once immigrants — have in common, ministry spokesman Yehuda Glick said. A central event planned for tomorrow at the Jerusalem Theater will feature a documentary presentation entitled *Magic Moments*, about the various aliya efforts made over the years.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Chief rabbis, Latin patriarch to meet

In a historic meeting, Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah is to meet with Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau and Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron today.

Although Lau has previously met with Pope John Paul II, this is the first time that the two chief rabbis are to meet with the head of the Roman Catholic Church in Jerusalem. The patriarch is to call upon the chief rabbis at their offices.

Sabbah, the first Palestinian to occupy his office, has been an outspoken defender of the rights of the Palestinians and he is not likely to remain silent on this issue.

Haim Shapiro

WILLEY

Continued from Page 1

In a dramatic television appearance a week ago, Willey told CBS's 60 Minutes that during the 1993 visit, Clinton placed his hands on her breasts, kissed her on the mouth, and placed her hand on his genitals during a conversation about her financial troubles. Willey said she was so taken aback by the advance that she wanted to slap Clinton, but pushed him away instead and eventually left the office. Two days after the alleged encounter, Willey began trying to get back in touch with Clinton. Records released by the White House last week showed Willey contacted Clinton's office on December 1.

PARDONS

Continued from Page 1

It was not possible to know in advance how many prisoners will be freed, Weizman said. "The number will depend on the criteria," he said. "It will be bigger than in any other year. This is not a matter of mathematics or of physics." Hanegbi announced the mechanism for deciding on the pardons. An interministerial committee headed by a representative of the Justice Ministry will be set up, he said. It will include the president's legal advisers and representatives of the police, IDF, and GSS.

This committee will propose criteria for individual pardons within a month, Hanegbi said.

CABINET

Continued from Page 1

Science Minister Michael Eitan, however, objected to the very fact that the cabinet was dealing with specific percentages, arguing that it is unnecessary to be hamstringed by them.

Margot Dudkevitch and Mohammed Najib add:

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's aide, Nabil Abu Rudeineh said Arafat received a call from US Secretary of State Madeleine

Albright on Saturday night, in which she updated Arafat on current US attempts to push the peace process forward.

Ahmed Abdul-Rahman, secretary-general of the PA cabinet, said the PA is also waiting for Ross's visit. He said Palestinian officials hope that Ross will bring some concrete ideas to rescue the peace process. He stressed that the Palestinians expect the US to apply more pressure on Israel and force it to implement the signed accords.

"The PA position at present is

SYRIA

Continued from Page 1

Israel is expected to gain a clearer picture of Syria's position from Amman, who is due here tomorrow after a round of meetings with Lebanese and Syrian leaders.

Annan said after talks with Assad yesterday that Syria is skeptical about the initiative. "On Lebanon, the Syrian leadership

expressed deep skepticism about the real significance of recent interviews in the Israeli media (regarding the withdrawal offer)," he told a joint news conference with Foreign Minister Perouk Shara.

Annan said implementation of 425 "would clearly require the understanding and cooperation of all concerned."

"In the meantime, official Syrian newspapers continued to

denounce Israel's initiative as a plot aimed at trying to split the Syrian-Lebanon track.

The proposal put forward by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and supported by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu calls for arrangements that would ensure the security of the northern border and the safety of South Lebanese Army soldiers and their families in the event of an IDF withdrawal.

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NEWS

in brief

US missionaries freed in Russia, official says

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Two US Mormon Church missionaries abducted in Russia's Saratov region on Thursday have been freed, the security service said yesterday.

"The hostages have been freed, they are feeling all right," a spokesman for the local Federal Security Service said by telephone. The spokesman confirmed the pair had been freed without the payment of a ransom, but declined to give further details. Russia's NTV commercial television said the hostage-takers had brought them to the center of Saratov and let them go.

Pope makes strong rights appeal in Nigeria

ONITSHA, Nigeria (Reuters) - Pope John Paul II yesterday told Nigeria's politicians there is no place for abuse of power or intimidation of the weak and said the African nation had to strive to prevent any violation of human rights.

Using candid language in his homily at a beatification ceremony in Onitsha, the pope said the country of 104 million people and scores of ethnic groups must reconcile its differences and work toward using its human and natural wealth for the good of all.

Rioters attack N. Irish police in Belfast

BELFAST (Reuters) - Protestant rioters hurled petrol bombs at police who blocked them from a Roman Catholic area in north Belfast early on Sunday, security forces in Northern Ireland said.

Police said two officers in a patrol car had to be rescued when they were "ferociously attacked" by "loyalists" who threw around 30 firebombs.

Police fired three plastic bullets to disperse the mob and made six arrests. The rioters beat up a man who was trying to protect his property.

Officers moved in to the Halliday's Road area, a frequent trouble spot bordering pro-British Protestants and pro-Irish Catholic areas, and confronted 50 loyalists headed towards the nationalist zone.

They are called loyalists because of their fierce allegiance to Britain and their opposition to minority Catholic demands for the creation of an all-Ireland state.

"This incident has all the indications of an organized and orchestrated attack on police who were attempting to protect life and property," Supt. David Matchett said in a statement.

WW2 bomb kills five in Philippines

MANILA (Reuters) - Five Filipino treasure hunters were killed yesterday when a Japanese-made bomb left over from World War II exploded while they were tinkering with it, police said.

The group had found the bomb while looking for buried treasure in mountainous Rizal province just south of Manila.

"They brought it to the house of one of the group and were tinkering with it when it exploded. All of them were killed," a police spokesman said.

There have been many previous incidents around the country in which people were killed by World War II bombs.

Necklace sale raises \$2m. for Princess Di fund

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) - A 170-carat sapphire and diamond necklace has sold for \$2.2 million at a fund-raiser held in honor of the late Princess Diana.

Saturday night's black-tie Princess Ball was part of a gala to raise money for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund and Southern California's Aid for AIDS. The two charities will split the money.

The necklace was valued at \$3.5 million before the auction. The buyer was not identified.

Powerful quake hits Afghanistan, Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Reuters) - A powerful earthquake hit parts of northern Afghanistan and Pakistan on Saturday night, but there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties.

Some seismic laboratories put the epicenter of the earthquake in the same region of northeastern Afghanistan where a quake killed more than 4,000 people last month.

A seismic center in the northwestern Pakistani town of Peshawar said the quake measured 5.9 on the Richter scale, slightly less powerful than February's 6.1, but still capable of causing heavy damage in a populated area.

It was centered some 250 km. north of Peshawar in the Hindu Kush mountain range, the center said.

Skydiving team killed in plane crash

GRAIN VALLEY, Missouri (AP) - A plane carrying an American skydiving team crashed Saturday after reporting an electrical emergency shortly after takeoff. All six people on board were killed.

The Federal Aviation Administration said the Cessna 206 crashed into a field just short of the runway of the East Kansas City Airport in Missouri. A wing and strut were the only recognizable parts of the burned wreckage. The airport is near a residential area in the Kansas City suburb, and witnesses reported seeing smoke and flames coming from the plane, which also appeared to be leaking fuel. No one on the ground was hurt.

UN arms chief Butler arrives in Iraq

By HASSAN HAFIDH

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - United Nations chief arms inspector Richard Butler arrived in Iraq yesterday on his first visit since a crisis over arms inspections was resolved last month.

"I am very glad to be here, particularly after the agreement was signed between [UN] Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan and Iraq," Butler said, on his arrival in Habbaniya airport northwest of Baghdad.

"I think the agreement has created a new spirit of cooperation [between Iraq and the UN arms inspectors]," said Butler, chairman of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Butler was referring to an agreement signed on February 23 by Annan and Iraqi leaders guaranteeing entry for UNSCOM to all facilities, including eight so-called "presidential sites" to which inspectors had previously been denied access. The agreement averted US-led military strikes against Iraq.

Butler said he would start talks with Iraqi officials today on inspections of the "presidential sites" and other topics.

Butler was accompanied by the UN's under secretary-general for disarmament affairs, Sri Lankan Jayantha Dhanapala, who is charged with inspection of the disputed sites.

Under the accord reached with Iraq, Annan has agreed to set up a "special group" that would be headed by Dhanapala to supervise the completion of the inspections of the presidential sites. The group would include diplomats as well as inspectors from UNSCOM.

Dhanapala, who visited Baghdad from March 11-14, issued on



UN chief weapons inspector Richard Butler (center) and Humam Alows (right), an Iraqi Foreign Ministry official, arrive at the Al-Rasheed Hotel in Baghdad yesterday. (Reuters)

Thursday a list of 20 senior diplomats who would accompany UNSCOM weapons inspectors on visits to these sites.

Other topics expected on Butler's agenda are Iraq's biological warfare program, its production of deadly VX nerve gas and unaccounted for missile warheads believed to be loaded with chemical and biological weapons.

Butler arrived just two hours

after a newly appointed special envoy to Iraq, India's former UN ambassador Prakash Shah, flew in to Baghdad.

Shah, who was accompanied by three aides, said that he was sent by Annan to stay for the next six months.

"We have been briefed to watch developments in relations between Iraq and the UN and to help avert any escalation of crisis that might

develop," Shah told reporters shortly after arriving in Baghdad.

"It is a question of trying to see the objectives of the UN and its activities here which is trying to bring about peace and peaceful solutions to all questions," said Shah, who was appointed by Annan to help him coordinate the large UN operations in Iraq and keep open communications with Iraq's leaders.

"I am here to stay for about six months as indicated by the appointment," he said. He said sanctions imposed on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait would not stay "forever."

The United Nations currently has more than 425 people in Iraq, including arms inspectors and staff administering the oil-for-food deal.

Kohl's party projected loser in local elections

KIEL, Germany (Reuters) - Germany's opposition Social Democrats (SPD) scored solid gains in local elections yesterday in the northern state of Schleswig-Holstein, according to an official sample of 50 election districts.

The state statistics office said that the SPD scored 43 percent compared to 39.5% in 1994. Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) gained slightly, rising to 39% from 37.5%.

The environmental Greens

declined to 6.9% from 10.3% four years ago, according to the official trend figures announced about 90 minutes after polls closed at 6 p.m. local time.

The liberal Free Democrats (FDP) scored less than five percent, the statistics office said. The FDP had scored 4.4% in the last vote in 1994.

The local elections in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany's northernmost state, are a closely watched barometer of Kohl's fortunes six months before the

September 27 federal ballot.

The voter turnout declined to about 63% from 70.5% in 1994, the statistics office in Kiel said.

Kohl was quoted yesterday as saying it would be "a disaster" for Germany's economy if the SPD and environmental Greens were to win power after September's election. In an interview to appear in today's editions of *Bild* newspaper, Kohl said the SPD and Greens would raise taxes and destroy jobs by reversing his government's reform efforts.

Kosovo Albanians vote - without US intervention

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) - Balloting in Kosovo was overshadowed yesterday by twin moves against Americans: Six were jailed and three US Congress members were refused entry to the restive province.

The actions on election eve underscored the stance of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic that outside intervention - particularly from Americans - is not welcome in efforts to calm Kosovo.

Early voting in elections run by Kosovo's Albanians for their self-styled republic passed without incident. Initial turnout seemed brisk in the capital, Pristina.

Serbia, the larger of the two republics left in Yugoslavia, says the elections are illegal, but that it won't interfere.

The lone candidate for president, Ibrahim Rugova, expressed regret that three members of the US Congress and 11 others in their group who tried to reach Kosovo

on Saturday to monitor the vote had been denied visas and entry.

The Yugoslav Foreign Ministry said the three backed the secessionist struggle by their desire to monitor "illegal elections." Albanians outnumber Serbs 9 to 1 in Kosovo, the cradle of Serbia's culture and Orthodox church. Kosovo has been ruled with a heavy hand from Belgrade since 1989, when Milosevic, then Serbian president, abolished Kosovo's broad autonomy.

French Right awaits aftershocks of deals with Front

PARIS (Reuters) - French conservatives, reeling from a political earthquake set off by the far-right National Front, prepared for aftershocks yesterday as more regions got set to elect new council chairmen this week.

If the tremors come with maximum force, the mainstream Right as it is now organized, with President Jacques Chirac's Rally for the Republic (RPR) and its centrist Union for French Democracy (UDF) allies, could be split into new formations.

The next jolts could come as early as today, when the Front plays kingmaker as four of France's 22 regional councils meet to elect their new chairmen. Two of France's largest regions, around Paris and Marseille, are at stake.

"What we are watching is the disintegration of the right-wing," historian Rene Remond commented. "These elections will have national ramifications."

The Right got its first taste of the turbulence to come when Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen on Saturday demanded its help to win in his Riviera stronghold after his forces hoisted conservatives into power in five regions last week. His ultra-nationalist deputy Bruno Megret threatened the Front would block the mainstream right

from winning the greater Paris region of Ile-de-France if it did not help Le Pen become regional council chairman in Provence-Alpes-Cotes d'Azur. That trap meant former RPR prime minister Edouard Balladur in Ile-de-France and UDF leader Francois Leotard in Provence-Alpes-Cotes d'Azur looked set to lose out whether they stepped aside to let the Left win or sullied their hands to gain power with the Front.

While the clock ticked, politicians spent yesterday wondering whether another election - local polls in parts of the country - would send any sign of how voters reacted to the Front deals. Polls say two-thirds of the electorate oppose the power deals, despite the willingness of many councillors to work with the Front rather than let their regions switch to the Left.

"Is there a pilot in this airplane?" the *Journal du Dimanche* newspaper asked in a review of the past week. "It's clear that no political leader is in control of events."

Although the Front did not demand its right-wing allies implement its staunchly anti-foreigner policies - the aspect other parties find the most odious - commentators did not believe the day it calls in that debt can be far off.

From the Lotto



Mifal Hapayis

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THIS IS YOUR WEEK

12

(MILLION NIS)

Jerusalem Post

Wilde was never this tame

Movie Review

By Adina Hoffman

More than most writers whose lives are subjected to costume-drama treatment, the great Irish-born playwright, poet, novelist and fop Oscar Wilde led an existence that was an extension of his art. From the famous flower in his button-hole to his notorious trial and imprisonment on charges of "inde-

WILDE

★★

Directed by Brian Gilbert. Screenplay by Julian Mitchell, from *Oscar Wilde* by Richard Ellmann. Hebrew title: *Hayav shel Wilde*. 112 minutes. English dialogue. Hebrew subtitles. Not recommended for children. With Stephen Fry, Jude Law, Vanessa Redgrave, Jennifer Ehle, Michael Sheen and Tom Wilkinson.

cent acts," his flamboyant personality was arguably his greatest creation. He was a celebrity in the modern, Dennis Rodman sense, and both his acclaim and his humiliation took place in public. When he was censured, it was not for his sharp wit or work but for his behavior, for having lived and loved as he chose.

All of which is reason to think that a movie version of his life might avoid the usual pitfalls of the artist's bio-pic, which so often tend to lose sight of the painter/writer/composer's work and descend to dime-store psychologizing — cheap speculation about failed love affairs, oedipal hang-ups and possible drug addiction. And indeed, the makers of *Wilde* need not strain to "wing" drama from his aesthete-hero's exploits: his real life was full of



Stephen Fry's soft features and gawky frame lend credibility to his portrayal of Wilde.

colorful, defiant displays that should transfer easily to energy onscreen.

But the movie is a yawn. It seems ironic, given the purportedly shocking nature of Wilde's adventures, but the picture feels almost calculated in its dullness, as if the filmmakers thought a rather stiff recounting of the circumstances surrounding the writer's fall from public grace might redeem him, once and for all, for respectable folks. There is, too, an element of backward-looking smugness about much of the action, as if contemporary audiences are meant to watch the film and feel grateful for all the

"progress" we've made since the smothering, Victorian era in which Wilde sometimes suffered. The movie nearly invites us to pat ourselves on the backs and sigh: We're so much more enlightened now. He was just born too soon.

Maybe so, but his sexual foresight doesn't excuse the plodding, superficial nature of Julian (Vincent & Theo) Mitchell's script, nor director Brian (Tom & Viv) Gilbert's static sense of how his story ought to be told. The movie simply progresses from event to event in Wilde's life, from silky outfit to silky outfit, from well-appointed parlor to well-appointed parlor without helping us much to

understand what moves him. (The fancy clothes and rich upholstery no doubt accounted for part of his passion, but surely not all of it.) There are occasional glimpses of a bare male bottom, but this is as wild as Oscar gets.

British comedian Stephen Fry certainly looks the part — with his soft features and gawky frame he also suggests a well-dressed Julia Child — but there's something bland and tentative about his presence. He quips intelligently enough (it seems plausible that he's the one concocting these arch one-liners) but he doesn't make sense as a dynamic, scene-stealing eccentric. If anything, his tame

portrayal of the title character appears to be part of the scheme to make him acceptable to one and all. He seems like a good, inoffensive chap.

The only real sparks in the film fly from Jude Law, a green-eyed, ruby-lipped blond who cuts a believably hot-blooded figure as the spoiled poet Lord Alfred Douglas, or Bosie, Wilde's young and troubled lover whose tumultuous relationship with his own father (Tom Wilkinson) ultimately brought about Wilde's downfall. The liveliest moments in the movie take place when Law is onscreen, posing, posing and selfishly carrying on.

Countdown to the Oscars: Stars clamor for glamor on the big night

By ANDREA ORR

It wasn't so long ago when Demi Moore showed up at the Oscars in bike shorts, Cybill Shepherd wore sneakers, and Cher's dress covered so little of her body that even television viewers blushed.

But now high fashion — not to be confused with the garish styles Hollywood is often known for — has become the main attraction of Oscar night.

While few fashion arbiters consider L.A. a capital of style or taste, designers know that getting a dress on the back of Helen Hunt, Minnie Driver, or even 87-year-old Gloria Stuart from *Titanic* can bring more recognition than all the runway models in Paris and Milan put together.

"If you're a major actress willing to wear a designer's clothes, it brings major publicity," says Patrick McCarthy, editorial direc-

tor of *Women's Wear Daily*.

"To get that kind of advertising is the equivalent of millions and millions of dollars." The competition to be a designer to the stars kicks in after Oscar nominees are named. If you are up for an award, married to someone who is, or just famous enough to be known by the readers of *People* magazine, any dress from Armani, Versace, Prada can be yours.

Any tux as well. A friend of Peter Fonda reveals that just a few months ago every designer regarded the actor as too minor to be worth their time. That changed overnight after he received a best actor nomination for *Ulee's Gold*. "Oh my God, the calls just kept coming, fast and furious," she recalls. "I laughed my head off."

And that was just for a tux. Even the world's top designers can do only so much with a tux. With women's gowns, the stakes are immeasurably higher.

"I never attached that much importance to what I wear," best actress nominee Helena Bonham Carter of *The Wings of the Dove*, confessed. "Now it has assumed monumental importance." In 1996, when Mira Sorvino was up for best supporting actress, which she won, Giorgio Armani flew her to Paris for a fitting. The stunning gown she finally decided on was priceless: Armani gave it to her for free. The late Gianni Versace did the same last year when one of his creations was selected by Courtney Love. She was one of the actresses most coveted by designers for her "clean up" potential.

It is the common practice by designers fortunate enough to dress an Academy Award nominee to just give them the gowns. Many have also been known to throw in a few other dresses, perhaps a whole wardrobe, as a sign of gratitude. Celebrities often brush off the

significance of such gifts. After all, they are well able to pay for their own clothes, and many, like Helen Hunt, give them to charities which auction them off to raise money for such things as AIDS research.

To a well-paid actor, the real value of being dressed by a professional is the peace of mind in knowing they will not be ridiculed when they make their appearance at the show.

Scrutiny is never more intense than at the arrivals scene at the Oscars. While the California sun is still high in the sky, limousines pull up to a red carpet and deposit guests to be examined closely by crowds of journalists and paparazzi. As the stars slowly make their way inside, they repeatedly are asked the same question. "Who designed your dress?"

"Actors are not as a rule the best dressed people," says Valerie Steele, chief curator at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New

York. "There have been a number of fairly embarrassing bloopers over the years and a general level of tackiness. But you're not seeing that so much anymore."

This year Bonham Carter selected a British designer to make her a dress based on a design her mother bought in the 1950s. Kate Winslet of *Titanic* chose Givenchy, and a third best actress nominee, Judi Dench from *Mrs. Brown*, picked London designer Nicole Fahri. Peter Fonda is remaining loyal to the designer Zegna, who clothed him back when no one else would.

There are still a few guests each year who claim to reject the couture. Sharon Stone once said the top she wore to the Oscars came from The Gap chain store.

Judi Dench said she feared being the only woman in L.A. without a face-lift and wondered if she could "rush out and get something done very quickly." (Reuters)

A chorus of Renaissance men



Henry's Eight sings both early and contemporary music.

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

When King Henry VIII founded Trinity College in Cambridge, he could not have imagined that, several centuries later, several students from the college would use his name for their newly formed a cappella male ensemble. But, as there were eight of them, the choice of name was obvious.

Canadian-born Jonathan Brown,

who founded Henry's Eight, (which makes its Israeli debut on Thursday at the Noga Theater in Jaffa and Saturday at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem [8:30] within the Authenticity early-music series), says the ensemble was founded in 1992 and became professional two years later.

"When we started, we looked at neglected works from the Renaissance, unaccompanied

sacred motets and things like that. Since then, we branched out into the 20th century as well." Brown points out that the repertoire for eight male singers is rather restricted. "We cannot sing Brahms or even Beethoven or Bach. So we have to be content with either early music or very late, I mean contemporary, music."

Henry's Eight is one of several international early music/baroque vocal ensembles. Brown suggests that his ensemble's uniqueness is the fact that they are eight male singers. "We try to find our special niche within the repertoire we sing. We look at neglected composers and try to infuse our interpretations with something different. My aim is to present works from the Renaissance in a poetic way. In a church-like way, which is different from the many ensembles whose approach is much more academic."

Not that Brown shies away from the academic approach. "Scholarship has to exist, as we are dealing with manuscripts which we find in libraries; we need to look for the music, but once it is there, it is more art and less academia."

Brown is aware that "essentially the music we sing wasn't intended to be performed in a concert arena, but since we do perform in such venues and people like to come to concerts, we

try to make it exciting through the singing and the interpretation."

Brown is delighted that there is a wide audience for early music. "I'm happy about it. Some of it comes, of course, from the novelty. After all, we are talking about music that has been performed not

more than 20-30 years. The Beethoven symphonies have been popular for a long time, so maybe they are less intriguing for the audiences than they used to be. But it's a fact that early music is the only part of the industry that's doing well, and I sincerely hope it's not just a fad."

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Zahav	Dan & Sharon Areas	9:30 a.m., 8:30 p.m.

NEWS

of the muse

Jubilee celebrations I: IPO concerts

The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra has announced a series of concerts to celebrate the jubilee. Two concerts will take place at the Mann Auditorium, the first (April 25) featuring the IPO under Lorin Maazel in two symphonies by Beethoven — the Third and the Seventh. The second concert (April 29 in Jerusalem and April 30 in Tel Aviv) will feature a wide array of soloists including favorites such as Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman and Yefim Bronfman, as well as IPO debutante mezzo-soprano Cecilia Bartoli with music director Zubin Mehta on the podium. On May 2 the orchestra will be at Hayarkon Park in Tel Aviv for a free concert under the stars with a combination of classical and Israeli popular music stars under Mehta's baton. Two other events include the premiere of Dov Seltzer's *Requiem for a Leader*, a work dedicated to Yitzhak Rabin (April 27), and a May 4 concert in Yad Vashem featuring Noam Sheriff's *The Resurrection of the Dead*. Michael Aizenstadt

II: Thelma Yellin pupils perform abroad

Three musical groups from the Thelma Yellin High School for the Arts have recently returned from successful tours abroad. The school's symphony orchestra, under music director Menahem Neuberhaus, appeared in Denmark, Belgium and Paris. The school's Big Band ensemble performed in the US, and the oratorio choir performed in Belgium and France. Most of the concerts were in honor of Israel's jubilee and were attended by local dignitaries. Michael Aizenstadt

III: Indian dancer brings 'visual music'

Alamel Valli, a world renowned Bharatanatyam dancer, will be performing with her group as part of Israel's 50-year celebrations. Valli, who has performed at the Bolshoi Theater, the Hague Palace and the Royal Albert Hall, founded the Dipashikha Center for Performing Arts in 1984. After being trained by gurus and becoming a guru herself, she has developed a unique style within the Bharatanatyam tradition, creating visual music.

Bharatanatyam dance combines the physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual aspects of life and has been handed down from teacher to student in the temples of southern India for two thousand years. In Hinduism all creative art forms are incorporated into the religion. Bharatanatyam dancers are called *devadasis* ("servants of god"), and the dancer starts the performance with the *namaskaram* — greeting to the gods, the stage, the presiding deity, the musicians and the audience.

Sponsored by the Embassy of India in cooperation with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Valli will be performing with her group March 24 at Nazareth Cultural Center; March 27 at the Churchill Auditorium at the Technion, Haifa; and March 28 at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem. Marne Rochester

Young composers prize

Nurit Yugend (26) is the recipient of this year's Israel Composers' League Klon Award for young composers. The award (\$1,500) is aimed at helping the recipients complete their studies. The award ceremony will take place on April 8 at Beit Ariela in Tel Aviv. Michael Aizenstadt

Ra'anana Symphonette tours the US

The Ra'anana Symphonette, under music director Yuval Zaliouk, is about to embark on a US tour celebrating Israel's jubilee. The orchestra will play eight concerts in Memphis, Portland, Toledo, Miami, Seattle, Newark and other cities. The three programs feature the works of two Israeli composers — Gil Shohat's Concertino for Violin and Orchestra, with Symphonette concertmaster Nirit Zori as soloist, and Yosef Bardanashevili's *Children of God* with countertenor David De'or. Michael Aizenstadt

New Tel Aviv choral ensemble

The Tel Aviv Collegium, a new 12-piece choral ensemble directed by Avner Itai, made its premiere Tel Aviv performance March 18 at the Enav Center after its inauguration concert in Nazareth a few months ago. The first season of the ensemble comprises four programs. Michael Aizenstadt

Touched by an award

Israeli composer Tsippie Fleischer won the first annual Cambridge Madrigal Singers Choral Composition Competition for her opus entitled *No Hand Has Touched You*. The work will premiere April 4 and 5 in Boston. Michael Aizenstadt

New CD of Jewish choral music

Israel Music Associates have issued a new CD of Jewish choral music by Tzipora H. Jochsberger. Recorded in Jerusalem and Riga, the disc features the Ave Sol Chamber Choir from Riga, the Ankor Children's Choir from Jerusalem, and cantor Israel Rand singing "Four Hebrew Songs," "Zelda Songs," "Psalms for Children's Choir" and "Synagogue Music" by the German-born composer who resides in Israel, where she founded the Music Heritage Project. Michael Aizenstadt

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I've seen this play at the National Theatre in London, with Judy Dench in the leading role. The Israeli production is better, warmer and more exciting. (Michael Handelsaltz - Ha'aretz)
"The magic is revealed through convincing performances...manages to charm, without showing the sweat...The acting is good, Shiri Golan has a great deal of power, Gil Frank is excellent. Alex Ansky molds the role well and Elisevha Michaeli and Alon Neuman produce good performances...the jewel in the crown is Jettie Monte." (Shosh Weitz - Yediot Ahronot)

See it in HEBREW...
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Learning from inflation

Let the history books record that 1998 was the year that the dragon of inflation was vanquished.

In 1995, when the Bank of Israel – surprised by the previous year's inflation rate of 14.5 percent – embarked on its policy of high real interest rates, critics said that it would not work. But last month's consumer price index went down 0.1%, leading to an inflation estimate of about 5% for 1998.

Today the Bank of Israel is expected to reduce interest rates slightly for the third straight month, in an effort to ease the burden on the economy without undoing its salutary victory over inflation.

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel deserves tremendous credit for standing up to withering pressure to sway from this path. Month after month, the Finance Ministry and the Manufacturers Association would clamor for lower interest rates, and the bank would stand firm. Just a few months ago, Frenkel lost a fight to bring down the inflation rate target slightly, from a 7% to 10% range down to 6% to 9% range. Now inflation might even be lower than Frenkel's proposed range.

Now that the naysayers who claimed that inflation could not be brought down dramatically have been proven wrong, another canard should be dismissed: That low inflation causes unemployment. The US and Britain have shown that it is possible to tackle both blights at once. As Frenkel rightly points out, inflation not only does not create jobs, it stifles the growth which is the real engine for job creation.

Nor should we delude ourselves that the stalled peace process is the economy's main problem. The main casualty of the difficult diplomatic situation is the tourism industry, but that industry has been in a slump since the spate of terrorism in early 1996, when the peace process was deemed to be going well.

Foreign investments reached \$3.7 billion in 1997. The booming high-tech sector, which has attracted most of this investment, has shown itself to be relatively impervious to political ups and downs. It is domestic investment, such as in the construction industry, that has slumped.

Clearly, the current anemic growth rate of less than 2% would be higher if tourism were buoyed by a glitchless peace process. But the fundamental obstacles to a healthier economy are structural, not external.

Despite the high growth rates in the mid-1990s, labor productivity has been basically flat since 1991. Normally, when productive inputs increase – such as the massive injection of highly skilled workers from the Russian aliyah – growth increases even more, as the economy becomes more productive. This did not happen, so when the aliyah dropped off, so did the economic growth.

The recipe for increasing productivity is not as straightforward as that for beating inflation, but some steps are clearly long overdue. Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman is on the right track when he decries the overtaxation of Israelis, and the excessive size of the budget. He is right to point out that, when high wage earners face a 60 percent marginal tax rate, and 40 percent of the GDP is taxed away by the state, "there can be no growth in a situation like this."

Nor is it enough to just bring down the overall size of the budget. Over the past two years, the ballooning of the budget has been brought under control, but more at the expense of infrastructure than of transfer payments. The opposite needs to occur for growth to be sustained, even though politically this is more difficult.

On many fronts – privatization, capital market and currency exchange reform, budget restraint – the government is moving in the right direction. But the government has not acted decisively enough to achieve the high-growth, low-inflation, low-unemployment economy that is within our grasp. The appointment of a Finance Ministry insider, Tzipi Samet, as director of the Capital Markets, Insurance and Savings Division of the Treasury, for example, does not breed confidence that the government will separate the provident funds from the banks, or truly eliminate foreign currency restrictions.

The victory against inflation is a fundamental one, from which it should be learned that with persistence and sound policies much can be accomplished.

It turns out, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu likes to say, the laws of economics do apply in Israel. Unfortunately, however, there is no equivalent to an independent central bank that can apply these laws to our other economic challenges.

Absent such an outside force, Netanyahu must confront what have been the laws of Israeli politics, or forgo the structural reform that the economy needs.

Historical truths

YOSEF GOELL

In *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution*, American historian Charles Beard was among the first to challenge the myth of the noble and altruistic Founding Fathers of the Republic. He showed that nearly all the men who wrote the constitution had personal economic interests at stake. Beard broached his thesis in 1913, a full century and a quarter after the adoption of the Philadelphia constitution as the foundation and guiding myth of the United States.

His thesis has since been rebutted, debated and fine-tuned but even he, for all his myth-busting approach, did not claim that the American revolutionaries – who were a minority among the colonists in British North America – were wrong to revolt against Britain. Which is not to argue that there is no basis for such a claim.

The purpose of this introduction, of course, is to return to the problematic topic of the Channel One TV series *Thuma*, which has sought to recount the saga of the Zionist-inspired Jewish revival and return to history and sovereignty in this country over the past 50 years.

A growing number of politicians and media commentators have lambasted the series over the past fortnight, claiming that several of its recent chapters constituted shocking examples of extreme anti-Zionist and anti-Israeli bias.

They were referring primarily to the chapters on the "Palestinians as victims" during the 1948 War of Independence and since, and to the "anti-Sephardi racism" underlying the behavior of the exclusively Ashkenazi leadership of Mapai of the 1950s in the absorption of the large waves of Sephardi immigrants from the Moslem countries of that period. The impending chapter "Biladi, Biladi" (The Palestinian anthem, "My Homeland, My Homeland"), on the growth of Palestinian nationalism and its war

of terror against Israel, promises to arouse even more controversy.

I agree with some of the criticism, although I part company with the critics who demand that the series be suspended and its contents subjected to censorship (by whom?). This debate over various aspects of our history is a legitimate one; the perplexing question is, however, how does one present what passes for the historical truth in situations of historical complexity?

As a participant in the War of Independence I know that some of our military units were responsible for some extremely reprehensible acts against the Arab population. But I also know beyond any shadow of a doubt that the Arabs were the ones who unleashed that war against us and that, in its early months, it was largely a war between civilian populations, and one that we were losing. That part of the historical truth has not come over as emphatically on *Thuma* as the aspect of Palestinian suffering.

Or take the issue of anti-Sephardi discrimination in the 1950s and '60s. Was there such discrimination? Certainly. Were the main or only culprits prime minister Golda Meir and the rest of her Mapai henchmen, as the Black Panthers of the early 1970s (and their champion *Thuma*, of today) would have it? Certainly not.

Ethnic prejudice and discrimination were popular sins (as they are today with the nasty racist prejudice of many second- and third-generation Israelis of North African origin against the recently arrived Russian olim). Many leading members of the Mapai leadership, including David Ben-Gurion, Levi Eshkol, Giora Josephthal, Golda Meir and others tried – often in vain – to do their best to absorb the million newcomers from the Moslem countries, in the context of a poor Israel.

Dry Bones



THERE is no one historical truth about these extremely complex issues. Debating how different truths should be balanced is very legitimate. The question is the venue in which that debate and the education of the nation should be conducted.

Just as little children in Christian America need not be told that there really isn't a Santa Claus, we should not debate these questions in elementary schools or in the lower grades of high school. More important, TV is especially unsuited for the presentation of such complex issues.

"Pictures," whether on TV, in films, or in newspapers, nearly always "lie," insofar as they are incapable of presenting more than a sliver of the truth. Someone is always aiming the camera at a par-

ticular sliver or narrowly one-sided aspect of any given reality.

By contrast, in speaking and in writing, we can always try to balance one sliver with many others and insert reservations. Theoretically, this should be possible on TV, too. In practice it is never done, primarily because it is too expensive.

Rest assured, no one will make an "anti-*Thuma*." The place for such debates is in university seminars, public symposia and perhaps even on radio; not in elementary schools or on TV. *Popolitika* and *Thuma* are the best evidence for that.

And perhaps the proper time for such a debate is not the festive occasion of Israel's jubilee?

The writer comments on current affairs.

Cook's unnecessary tour

ZALMAN SHOVAL

Old-timers will recently have been reminded of the British government's World War Two admonition to its subjects: "Is your trip really necessary?" Judging by results, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's recent tour of Middle Eastern capitals probably wasn't. Though he received the expected accolades in Gaza and Damascus, his unconventional comportment in Jerusalem left any potential role for the European Union in the Middle East peace process worse off than before.

Some Israelis may actually have asked themselves whether the late Ernest Bevin had risen from the dead or if the present foreign secretary had forgotten that the British mandate ended 50 years ago. Be this as it may, Cook's Har Homa caper which met with almost universal disapprobation by most parts of Israel's political spectrum, including the leader of the Labor Party – succeeded in turning the visit into a major public relations disaster for the EU – and, regrettably, also for Britain itself.

For in spite of the fact that British-Israeli relations today are more than cordial, and though the visit occurred as part of Britain's present role as president of the European Union, London may now be blamed, perhaps unfairly, for the anti-Israel positions of some of her fellow members in the EU.

Though the Europeans, except perhaps for Germany, have wanted for a long time to fulfill a more prominent role in the diplomatic

goings-on between Israel and her Arab neighbors, and though there have been other European ministerial junkets in the past – this time there seems to have been a new twist in the past. Washington had always made it quite clear that it basically considered the Europeans (especially France) trespassers on its Middle East turf – in particular where the Israeli-Palestinian peace process was concerned. (With Washington taking a rather jaundiced view of what was seen as Israeli attempts to play off America against Europe.)

Yes, Europe was to be given credit for shouldering a considerable part of the financial aid burden to the Palestinian Authority (not with tremendous results alas – though this isn't the fault of the Europeans) – but political involvement, no thank you!

This time around, however, there are some indications, including the well-publicized recent Clinton-Blair telephone conversation, that the present European initiative, including Cook's visit, was not completely un-coordinated with the US.

If this view is correct, Washington's logic may have been something like this: "As, due to domestic political and other reasons it isn't convenient for us to proceed with our own initiative immediately, (though this might come later), why not let the Europeans go first and get the expected Israeli flak?"

"And besides, as both we and even the Europeans know full well, their unofficial proposals are so unbalanced and blatantly pro-Arab (an immediate further 'redeployment' of 20% from the Israeli-controlled Area C – with a third withdrawal of major proportions lurking just around the corner – plus a total freeze on Israeli settlement activity) that Israel will be only too happy to 'grab' America's original proposal of a second 'redeployment' measuring 'only' 13.1%."

One may assume that at least some of the Europeans are also pursuing their own separate agenda, similar to their 1980 Venice Declaration which called for the establishment of a Palestinian state, decried the unification of Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty, and condemned the settlements.

Now too, their main objective seems to be exploiting their anti-Israel stance for furthering their own economic and political ends in the Arab and Islamic world. Not that the Europeans do not consider Arab-Israeli peace as an important aim in itself, but their priorities differ from those of the United States.

True, the US also has its targets and interests in the Middle East aside from its pivotal role in the peace process – but the differences between its and Israel's own positions are generally much more limited than the ones dividing Israel from the Europeans. It is worthwhile remembering in this

context that while Europe is largely dependent on Middle East and North African oil, this is not the case with America.

This reality was made very clear by the behavior of most Europeans, excluding Britain and possibly Germany, in the recent Iraqi crisis – the cavalier ignoring of both the American position and the dangers facing Israel.

As for Cook – it was *veni, vidi, vici* though not exactly *vici* for him. But even if somebody in Washington might have believed that some short-term tactical benefit could be derived from his visit, it didn't take long before it became demonstratively clear – once again – that America's long-term objectives cannot be helped by European meddling.

The US's principal aims are reinforcing the stability of the region, containing the growth of rabid anti-Western and fundamentalist forces in it – and, of course, continuing the peace process. All these are aims which Israel basically shares. In spite of all the ups-and-downs in the American-Israeli bilateral relationship, and without disregarding our important mutual political and economic ties with Europe, it is neither in America's nor our interest to encourage the EU to play a more active role in the peace process. Judging by its present and past policies, this would usually work against us – and against peace.

The writer is a former Israeli ambassador to Washington.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE LAND IS FULL

Sir, – D'vora Ben Shaul in "An all-consuming problem," (March 15) points to food shortages in developing nations as a likely result of the near-doubling of global population by the year 2025. She credits the Washington-based Worldwatch Institute with calling for a \$60 billion worldwide investment in birth control "to try to stem this population deluge."

When Israeli journalists write about population issues, why is the problem always "out there," and not here at home? Unlike other developed nations where growth rates have flattened, Israel's population continues to increase by nearly 3 percent a year, leading to a doubling of the country's population several years before 2025.

Israel today is more crowded

than India, with its legendary "population problem," and is fast approaching Japan's population density. The country's already dangerous water deficit will only be magnified by future population growth.

Yet massive subsidies to "child-blessed" families continue to fuel population growth, with fertility rates in the ultra-Orthodox sector reaching an astounding 6.9 children per adult female. Off-cited is the biblical precept: "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the land." At what point will we say: "The land is already full?"

PHILIP WARBURG,
Director, Resources for
a Sustainable Environment,
Jerusalem.

OBJECTIVE CORRESPONDENT

Sir, – Presuming that you are in favor of free and unfettered comment in your own columns, I am amazed that you would consider publishing for financial gain such a biased, unsavory and nakedly underhand advert as that contained in your March 9 edition and aimed at Walter Rodgers of CNN.

As a colleague who has worked with him both here and in Moscow, I can certify that he is one of the most objective correspondents working for any TV network. Please in future keep the rantings of the minority for the editorial columns where they can be subject to the scrutiny of your own reporters, rather than letting them loose unchecked in your advertising space.

CHRISTOPHER WALKER,
Middle East Correspondent,
Times of London,
Jerusalem.

UNEMPLOYMENT AS POLICY

able contribution to the charity of my choice.

During the last Tory government's term of office in Britain, the chancellor of the exchequer Norman Lamont accidentally revealed in public, the real intentions behind the administration's tight fiscal policies. Answering a question from an opposition MP in the House of Commons he declared that "unemployment is the price we have to pay in order to bring inflation down but that is a price worth paying." Statements like these, in addition to policy blunders, was later to cost him his job.

The present government here may not have wished to deliberately catapult the economy into the depths of the recession which has put so many people like myself out of work. But it should be remembered that our current prime minister is an ardent supporter of Thatcherism and Reaganomics and therefore it is possible that he unofficially accepts unemployment as being the necessary sacrifice for the greater good.

ELLIS PEARLMAN
Kfar Sava.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On March 23, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that beginning April 1, 1933, it would be possible to communicate by telephone with London, following a long series of successful experiments conducted by the General Postal Service.

50 years ago: On March 23, 1948, *The Palestine Post* report-

ed a thunderous explosion in Haifa which blew up a large building in Iraq Street and badly damaged others. This was an apparent Hagana reply to an Arab terrorist attempt, made two days earlier, to blow up the Solel Boneh building. This attempt failed, but six lives were lost and a great deal of damage was caused by a load of explosives

delivered in a tender.
25 years ago: On March 23, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the Labor Party had chosen Prof. Ephraim Katchalski of the Weizmann Institute of Science as its candidate for the fourth president of the state.

Alexander Zvielli

Feeding the crocodiles

BERNARD WASSERSTEIN

Just a few weeks ago, British soldiers were straightening their uniforms and adjusting their seatbelts as they set out for active duty against Saddam Hussein in the Gulf. The reason? The refusal of the Iraqi leader to open his palaces to inspectors seeking weapons of mass destruction that might be used against Saddam's enemies – among whom Israel would no doubt be first on the list.

Meanwhile the Israeli government was issuing lamentably implausible public reassurances as masses of hysterical citizens besieged inadequate distribution centers demanding gas masks. Thanks to the resolute stance of the United States and its only reliable ally, Britain, Saddam yielded at the eleventh hour.

Or rather – no thanks! For instead of the gratitude that is so obviously due to the only two powers that were ready to confront Saddam with more than words, what have we now witnessed? A boorish display of ingratitude that shames Israel – or would do so were her rulers not so palpably incapable of the slightest reddening of cheek.

In his conduct towards Britain's Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, Israel's prime minister has descended to the level of history's most perverse grandstanders – Idi Amin, Muammar Gaddafi, and

Benito Mussolini. Like them, Benjamin Netanyahu talks tough but acts with a capricious opportunism that shatters the long-term interests of his country. Like them he struts around like a playground bully, sweeping aside diplomatic protocol, ordering assassinations of enemies, making backstairs deals with unholy holy-men.

And like them he does not know how to say thank-you gracefully. The scenes of orchestrated discourtesy last week may have excited the right-wing tail that wags the government dog in Jerusalem. They may have raised Netanyahu's standing among those Israelis who remain semipermanently convinced that the whole world is against Israel. They may have thrilled Jerusalem's mayor who considers the best way to bind the city's deep wounds is to provoke its Arab population beyond the bounds of despair.

But what else did this undignified contretemps achieve – save to seal in the mind of outside observers the image of an Israeli leader who has not learned elementary manners? The late Menachem Begin, whatever else may be said about him, would never have treated a guest thus. The utterly baseless accusation

that Robin Cook is an antisemite should be nailed for the lie that it is. So should the idea that the position he adopted in Israel was in any sense personal. As Tony Blair has confirmed, he fully represented the view of the British government – as of the European Union, of which Britain is currently president.

Moreover, as the US State Department has insisted, his reminders of the illegality of settlements were in complete accord with America's longstanding view. The mob of termagants who call themselves Women in Green should pause and reflect before threatening further excursions into the history of the British mandate. Their long-term memories have got in the way of short-term recollection. Not only have they forgotten the recent Gulf crisis – but also the visit to Israel of French President Chirac in October 1996.

Like Cook, Chirac, a longstanding supporter of Israel and of the Jewish people, was accused (by that paragon of politeness Rehavim Ze'evi) of being an antisemite. Chirac similarly was subjected to rude scuffles and undiplomatic contumely. Then too, Netanyahu, Olmert and the cacophonous chorus of verdant ladies did their utmost to turn a sta-

tere friend of Israel into an enemy.

And for what? Supposedly for a "united Jerusalem." Yet all those with eyes in their heads know that Jerusalem is more disunited than ever. That there is not one Jerusalem but three: Arab, Israeli and haredi anti-Zionist. That far from there being any "consensus" on the future of the city, the Arabs of Jerusalem, nearly half the population of the metropolitan area, reject forcible incorporation into Israel.

But of course Arabs are not even taken into account by the "consensus"-constructors. Such is the unthinking racism with which they exclude their neighbors from the pale of common humanity.

No doubt the Israeli prime minister wishes that, like Idi Amin, he could simply throw his critics to the crocodiles. Unable to provide dinner for the reptiles, Mr Netanyahu chose not to feed Mr Cook.

Yet even the Ugandan dictator had some capacity for distinguishing between friends and enemies. The posturing paranoiac currently in charge in Jerusalem outdoes even the world's most self-destructive demagogues in his seeming eagerness to turn the notion that "the world is against us" into crazed – and dangerous – reality.

The writer is a historian and the author of *The British in Palestine*.

Joe Miss 1550

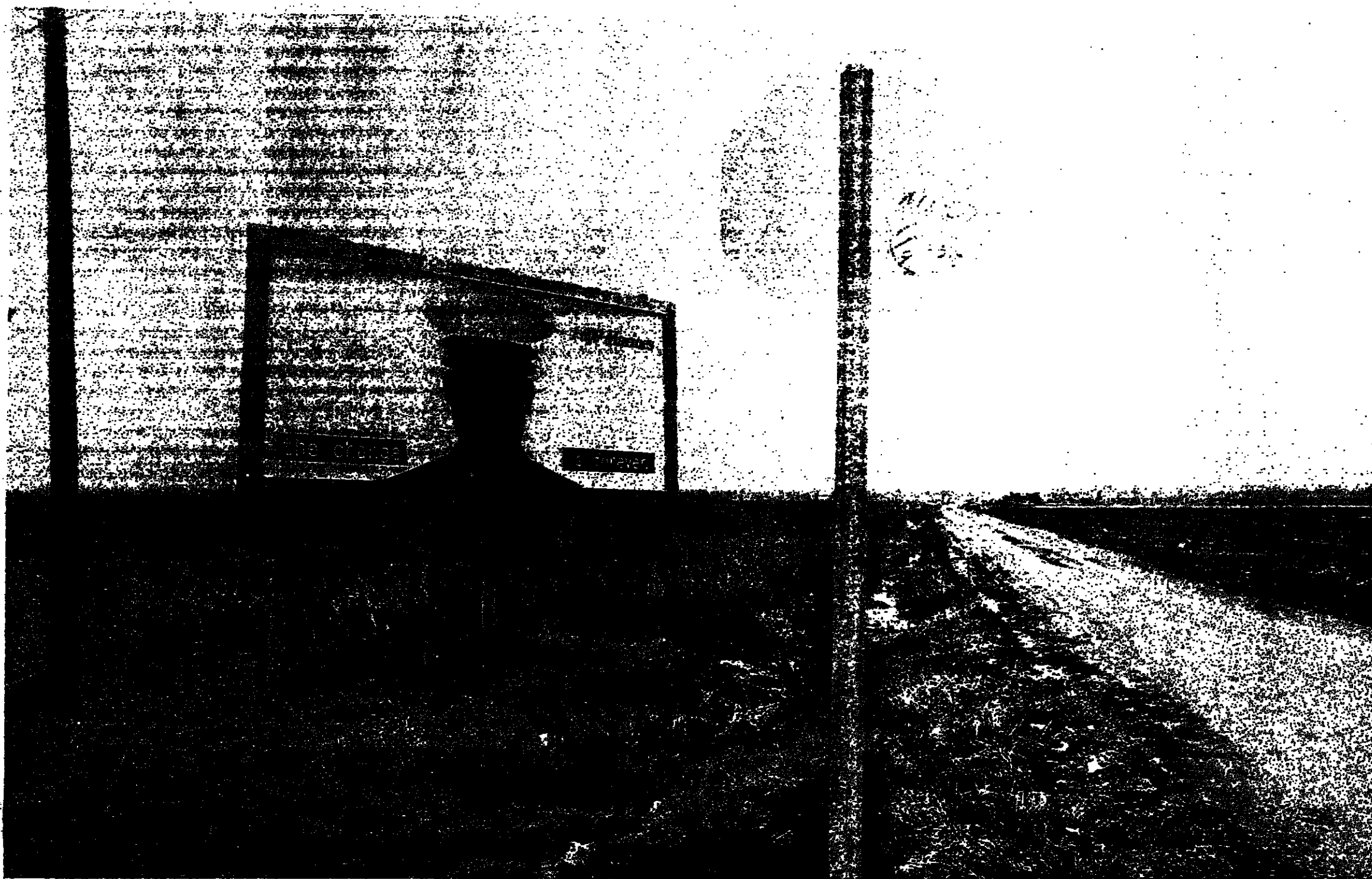
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Pride and Prejudice

The South's History Rises, Again and Again



Near Greenville, Miss. January, 1998

Joan Lifton/Actuality

By KEVIN SACK

JACKSON, Miss.

LIKE an anthology of short stories threaded by a common theme, a confluence of events in Mississippi last week provided a poignant test of William Faulkner's wry observation that "the past is never dead; it's not even past."

Clearly that was more true in the mythic South of Faulkner's fiction than in the modern South that promotes itself so relentlessly as New. But as developments in Mississippi last week demonstrated, the region's noble ambitions are still weighed down by

the transgressions of the past. Hard as it tries — and it tries more earnestly with each passing day — the South never quite pulls free of the most repellent aspects of its history.

The week began with a contentious forum held by the President's Advisory Board on Race at the University of Mississippi, an institution still coming to terms with the deadly riots of 1962 that greeted the enrollment of its first black student, James H. Meredith. Next came the unsealing of 124,000 pages of documents from the state's defunct Sovereignty Commission, a domestic spy agency disbanded in 1977 after waging an illegal, 21-year war on the civil rights movement. And the week ended with an ugly confrontation in the state Capitol between legislators

and Gov. Kirk Fordice over a voting rights bill that has generated yet another debate over states' rights and race.

Anguish and Anger

At the intersection of all three events there is reason to believe that many in this most Southern of states have concluded that they must address their past forthrightly to move forward. But in doing so they must inevitably confront anguish and anger — evoked by haunting images of Medgar Evers and other civil rights martyrs. And they face a paradox: the fact that revisiting the past both stimulates catharsis and stokes resentment. Whether it ultimately speeds healing or retards it is hard to know.

"Medgar Evers and James Meredith both said that if we ever turn the corner on race, Mississippi will be the best place in the world to live," said David Sansing, a University of Mississippi historian, who turned to the metaphor of a traffic circle to explain the South's progress. "We have turned the corner, but it's not a 90-degree turn," he said. "It's like one of those things that I drove in England last summer, a roundabout. Maybe we'll get off of it one day. But at least we're in motion, and that's more than you can say for much of the country."

That race relations in the South do not always

Continued on Page 12

What New York Renaissance?

Left Wing, Right Wing, Sneering at This Town

By DAVID FIRESTONE

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM
To: The United Media Elite
From: The I ♥ New York Subcommittee
Subject: Naysayers

WE don't know how it happened, but there is now strong evidence that many out-of-town writers and thinkers aren't getting the message about New York City's glorious comeback. In recent months, dissenting voices have been heard, daring to suggest that the city may actually have much more work to do.

Granted, most of these voices are coming from the provinces, from chip-on-the-shoulder places like Washington, London and Los Angeles, towns that long ago lost their bids to become capital of the world. But what is striking about these dissents is that they are coming from across the ideological spectrum, from conservative publications like *The Weekly Standard* and *National Review* to leftist Democrats to socialist university professors.

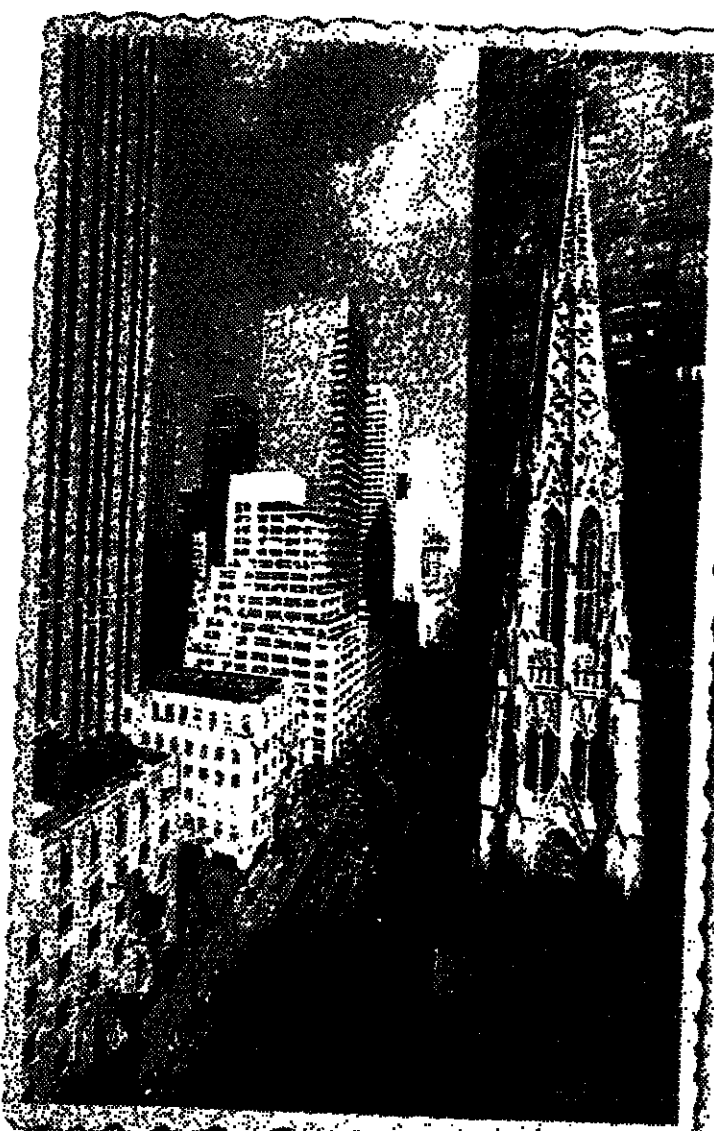
They are filtering their arguments through their own ideologies, of course. Those on the left believe the city has become increasingly oblivious to the social costs of prosperity, while conservatives believe the city hasn't gone nearly far enough in cutting taxes and stimulating the economy. Others are regionalists, passionately promoting areas like the Pacific Rim at

our expense. But each is using our renaissance to once again set New York apart as a unique cultural symbol — and just at the moment when Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani is finally poised to lead us into the American mainstream.

It is that entry that they most resist, even as they applaud the sudden decline in crime and sleaze that for so long served as our city's trademarks. They all seem to make the same point: We in the media elite, who have worked so hard to control what the nation thinks, have no idea what is really going on west of the Hudson, and thus we cannot fathom how far New York still has to go to catch up with prevailing economic and social trends. Thanks to our efforts, the world is flocking to our suddenly safe streets but knows nothing of our sky-high unemployment rate or business taxes. We in the media elite would rather rhapsodize about the tourist and immigration boom than explain the 1.07 million New Yorkers who, according to last week's census figures, joined the exodus from the city during the 1990's.

'Hype'

Take Joel Kotkin, for example, a centrist who used to work for the Democratic Leadership Council and now writes about urban policy as a senior fellow of the Pepperdine Institute for Public Policy in California. In an op-ed piece in *The Los Angeles Times* last month headlined "The Hype That Made New York," he argued



Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times

Midtown as New York's boosters see it: Glimmering for a parade.

Continued on Page 11

Dark Continent A Presidential torch to light up Africa.

By Howard W. French

10



Media Maelstrom Clinton scandal takes no prisoners.

By Bill Dedman

11



Healthier, Not Happier Pioneers of health-care reform assess their complex legacy.

By Peter T. Kilborn

12

The World

Clinton's Spotlight Now Turns to Africa

By HOWARD W. FRENCH

FOR millennia, Africa has largely remained a mystery to the outside world, marked perhaps more by its isolation than by any other feature. This stubborn reality can be traced to the earliest times and is reflected in the hopelessly misrepresented images of ancient cartographers, whose graphic distortions were as errant as the half-myths and false science that passed for knowledge about a place long known among Westerners as the Dark Continent.

From the Roman era, trade winds from the west made maritime commerce with remote India much easier for the Mediterranean world than it ever was with the much-closer eastern coast of Africa.

And on the west of the continent, Africa's greatest civilizations rose and fell with

Clinton's voyage will be measured.

The logic comes direct from Mr. Clinton's quarter. For this President, a man as versed in the art of the message as any modern leader, the first order of business will be one of images: changing the way Americans think of Africans, and perhaps vice versa.

America, Meet a Continent

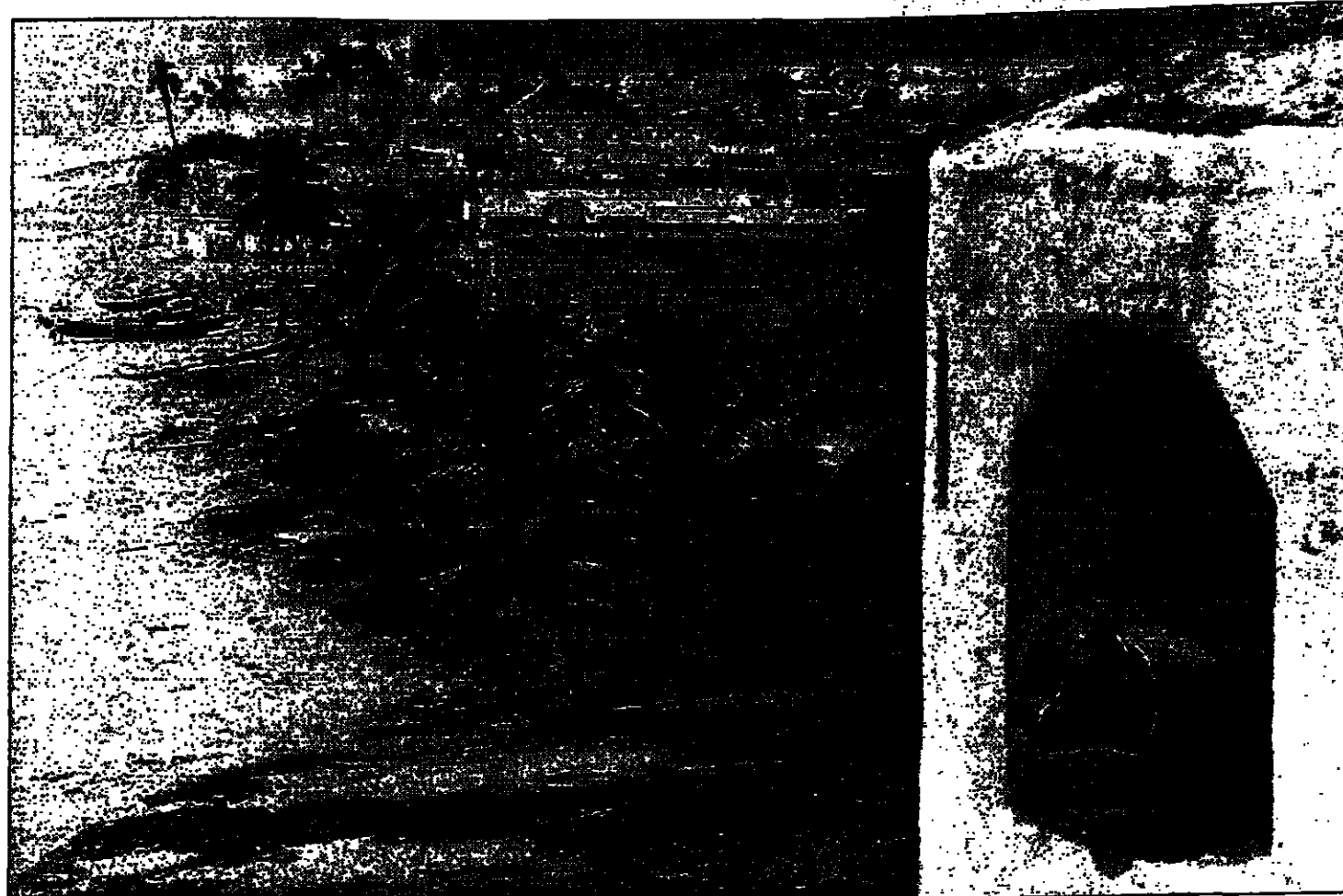
Mr. Clinton has already spoken of "introducing the people of the United States to a new Africa — an Africa whose political and economic accomplishments grow more impressive each month." He comes promising to help pull Africa out of its long isolation, and to assist in what he calls the continent's budding renaissance. There will be talk of new trade initiatives, certainly, and of democracy, of the environment and of working together for peace.

Both the backdrops selected and the countries to be visited (Ghana, Uganda, Rwanda, South Africa, Botswana and Senegal — all of which, except for Rwanda, exemplify strides toward democracy or economic growth or both) reveal the underlying message — a belated welcoming of Africa into a shared and fast-shrinking planet from perhaps the only man alive who can credibly make such a greeting.

Like every other important message these days, Mr. Clinton's message to Africa will be borne on the wings of the media. The television images beamed back to the United States promise to be of an Africa that few Americans suspect exists: of modern cities and articulate statesmen and fully fleshed-out people rather than the cartoon-like images of Africans as tribalized villagers that have prevailed.

"We are hoping to accomplish two things," said Susan Rice, assistant Secretary of State for Africa. "The first is to try and show Americans a picture of Africa that is different from the one-sided view they often get of conflict and warfare and famine." The President, she said, "also wants to convey that the United States is serious about building a new relationship with Africa for the 21st Century, one built on mutual interest and mutual respect."

Experts in American policy toward Africa



Africa has known the West mostly for what it has taken away. In Elmina, Ghana, a 15th-century castle evokes the slave trade.

A chance to brighten the gloom with images of progress.

hardly an echo; the formidable natural barrier imposed by the vast and hostile expanse of the Sahara Desert enforced the silence.

When outsiders have engaged Africa at all, Africans complain, they have almost always done so in the interest of extraction. And the products they have taken, from salt to slaves, gold to oil, have consistently served prosperity elsewhere rather than any development here.

The perspective of millennia may seem needlessly long for those who will watch President Clinton visit Africa this week, the first trip by an American leader to the continent in 20 years (except for a lightning trip by George Bush to visit American soldiers in Somalia).

But for guests and hosts alike, it will ultimately be against this backdrop that Mr.

who have seen past flourishes of interest fade like desert blossoms say they are cautiously optimistic that this time something different may be at work.

The mutual interest that American officials now speak of concerns the continent's huge, if mostly unrealized, economic potential, and growth rates that have been creeping up for a decade. Mr. Clinton comes armed with new legislation that, if ratified by the Senate, would lift barriers on much African trade with America and encourage American private investment as well.

To Be Heard

It would also create annual cabinet-level meetings between African and American officials. "Africa is the only continent that doesn't have something like this already," said Salih Booker, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. "It gives Africans a real opportunity to step up to the plate and articulate some ideas and defend their positions on important issues rather than waiting for outside powers to simply decide matters on their behalf."

As happy and proud as many Africans will

be to be playing host to the leader of the United States, there will also be real skepticism borne of long history. Where American Presidents are concerned, the gold standard in Africa was set by John F. Kennedy and Jimmy Carter, two leaders still seen by many Africans as having been uniquely interested in the fortunes of their continent — even more significant, as Presidents who not only took from Africa but gave as well. After the echoes of Mr. Clinton's rhetoric have faded, it is against this measure that many will judge him.

At the height of the Cold War, Mr. Kennedy created the Peace Corps, sending the first volunteers to Ghana, Mr. Clinton's first stop. Mr. Carter is still revered here for his emphasis on democracy and human rights — two themes that over the years have mostly been absent from Washington's policies toward the continent.

Mr. Clinton and his entourage will arrive with a mantra focusing on trade, not aid, and the point will be made insistently, if delicately, that America's budget priorities cannot include the large-scale assistance that many African countries say they badly need.

But Africans have been growing more

confident in their own emergence from decades of dictatorship and dependence, and so they think of more than just economic aid when they ponder what might constitute a meaningful gesture from outsiders who want to give back something to a continent that they have long taken from.

In one capital after another, educated youths look to an Asia where Western-dominated financial institutions are rushing to ease an economic crisis, and these young people are posing incisive questions about why their poor countries have not received similarly sympathetic hearings on issues like crushing foreign debt.

And there is the matter of democracy. When Africans have worked so hard in this decade to change the rules of politics in their countries, fighting authoritarianism and trying to make the citizen count, why has the West so often been silent?

"Clinton's best gift to Africans will be to take us seriously as people," said Totob Kwesti, a Ghanaian university student. "Let Africans and the world know and never forget that we suffer like other people, perhaps more, and that our needs are the same. That is worth more than money."

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The Nation

A Scandal's Road Kill Undergoes an Autopsy

By BILL DEDMAN

ON a rare sunny morning last week, on a quiet street of bungalows, Andrew J. and Kathy Bleiler opened their curtains for the first time in two months; for the first time, in fact, since telling their humiliating secret on national television.

On Jan. 27, Mr. Bleiler, his wife at his side, explained at a news conference on their front lawn that he had had an affair with Monica S. Lewinsky. He made his confession just as President Clinton was preparing to go on the air with his State of the Union speech.

In America's living rooms and newsrooms, several impressions of the Bleilers were formed that day, none of them good: He was a high school teacher who had had sex with his student; he was a publicity seeker; he was trying to sell his story.

Except that none of that was true.

Every scandal has its road kill, the pedestrians who stumble into the headlights of the oncoming 18-wheeler. Last week, as the Bleilers were letting the sunlight back into their house, Kathleen E. Willey stepped into traffic with her televised account of an unwanted sexual advance by President Clinton. She has since been cheered, examined, renounced and reviled — everything but dusted for prints — in a ritual that precedes her inevitable placement along the roadside.

Hey, wait a minute, guys.
That's not what happened at all. Hello. Hello?

In this regard, the Bleiler case may be instructive. He did cheat on his wife, but a few facts were left behind when the media pack moved on.

First, there was no teacher-student affair. Ms. Lewinsky and Mr. Bleiler say their relationship began in 1993, when she was 19 and a student at Santa Monica College. He was 27 and working at Beverly Hills High School, where he built sets and handled lighting for



Kathleen E. Willey with Ed Bradley of CBS News.

theatrical productions. They met when she returned to the school as a volunteer to work on costumes for a play.

Mr. Bleiler had begun his job at the high school three years earlier, when Ms. Lewinsky was a student there. At the time, he took over some drama classes for a few weeks during a teachers' strike. Ms. Lewinsky, through her lawyer, said she was in one of those classes. He said he has no memory of ever meeting her then. The following semester, she transferred to a private school.

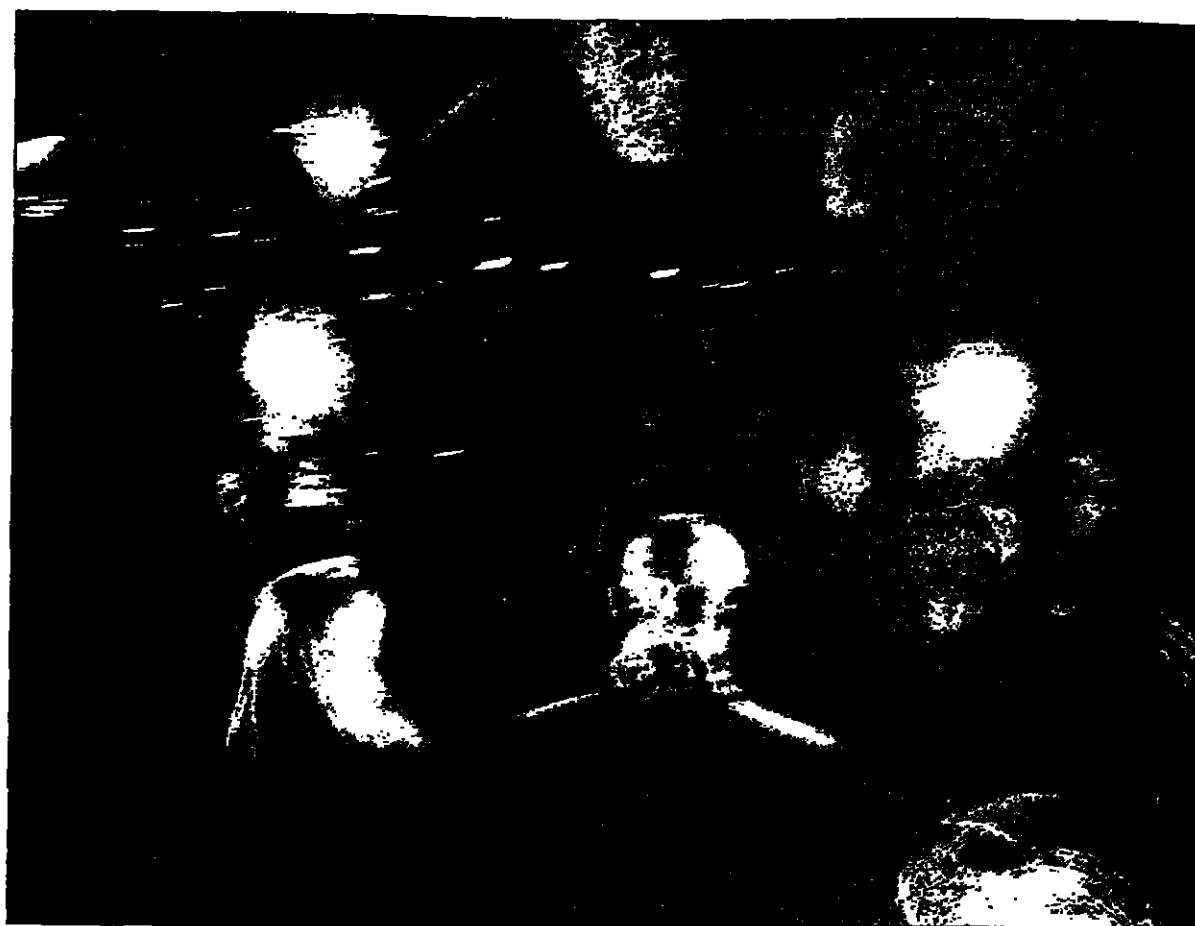
In 1993, Ms. Lewinsky moved to Portland to attend Lewis and Clark College. A year later, the Bleilers moved to Portland, where they had relatives.

As for seeking publicity about their connection to Ms. Lewinsky, the truth appears to be just the opposite.

A Call From Mom

"The folks that were saying that we came out and sought this," Mr. Bleiler said in an interview last week, "were the same folks that were in front of our empty house for a week wishing we would come home so they could talk to us."

Their first inkling of the trouble came on Jan. 21, when Mrs. Bleiler's mother called from Los Angeles to say that Ms. Lewinsky's name had been in the newspaper



Kathy and Andrew J. Bleiler leave a meeting with special prosecutors in Portland, Ore., last January.

that morning. Mrs. Bleiler had known about the affair. Within hours, the first of the news media calls came. "We know you're there!" a voice boomed out from the answering machine tape they saved. "Pick up the goddamn phone!" It was someone from the tabloid television show "Hard Copy."

Caps, Vans, Helicopters

Mrs. Bleiler pinned a table cloth over the window in the front door, and the family went into hiding at the home of friends. By the following day, their answering machine had recorded 100 news media calls. Television vans jammed their street and helicopters flew overhead.

After nearly a week, a relative in public relations persuaded them to hold a press conference, they said. They believed they had no other choice.

The Bleilers acknowledged last week that they had flirted with the idea of selling their story, and said a friend made some inquiries to find out how much it was worth.

But in the end, they decided against it.

"I imagined pushing my grocery cart past the rack and there would be the story," Mrs. Bleiler said. "Andy and I made the decision that we could not, in good

conscience, put this out there. It's disgusting."

Peace now has returned to their street, so the Bleilers have had some time to ruminate. They have concluded that there was not much they could have done to avoid the public scrutiny of the strange news conference two months ago.

"It brings up all of the pain and the shame, and then it takes it to a whole new level, which is a sense of a public embarrassment," Mr. Bleiler said.

"And humiliation," Mrs. Bleiler interrupted. "It's something," he added, "that most folks don't have to deal with, with this very private thing." They are continuing with marriage counseling, they said.

Mr. Bleiler's job as the theatrical production manager at a Vancouver high school has not been affected by the scandal. At the height of the frenzy, he was the subject in the school's Current World Problems class.

But the children have been affected. Mrs. Bleiler's 10-year-old daughter by a previous marriage was sent to Los Angeles to stay with her father for a time to shield her from the news media. The Bleiler's 4-year-old son stayed in Portland and hid out with them.

"My son still puts his stuffed animals inside the front door when we leave," Mrs. Bleiler said. "He says, 'Bubba's gonna guard against reporters.'"

Trusting Rosy Scenarios

One's Extremist Is Another's Winner

By RICHARD L. BERKE

THE loudest hurrahs for Peter Fitzgerald, the new Republican nominee for the Senate from Illinois, came not from within his party but from Democrats who think he is so conservative he will be a pushover against Senator Carol Moseley-Braun in November.

In the primary last week the Republican leadership had sided with Mr. Fitzgerald's centrist opponent, Loleta Didrickson, figuring she would pose a more robust challenge in a state that has not sent a Republican to the Senate since Charles H. Percy, a centrist who was defeated in 1984. Democrats are hoping that Mr. Fitzgerald will do for them what Al Salvati accomplished two years ago: Mr. Salvati upset a more moderate Republican rival for the Senate nomination, only to be thrashed by the Democratic candidate, Richard J. Durbin, who attacked him as out of the mainstream.

Political Trends

Perhaps. But the Democratic assumption that Republicans get stuck with extreme, unelectable candidates may be overblown and overly optimistic. While it helps to start with a candidate who appeals to the widest swath of the electorate, other factors can be just as critical, like money, political skills and trends — and who actually turns out to vote. Beyond tactics, conservatives may benefit because many voters are simply more conservative these days.

"People thought I was a right-wing fanatic, and the Republicans had people working pretty hard against me behind the scenes," recalled



Peter Fitzgerald last week after winning the Republican nomination for the Senate in Illinois.

Wynia, as more extreme on the left than he was on the right. He is now Senator Grams.

The Democrats also got their wish that year in Michigan, when a conservative, Spencer Abraham, won the Republican primary for Senate, and later the general election. "Abraham won because he is extremely articulate," said John J. Pitney, a professor of government at Claremont-McKenna College in California who is a former Republican party official. "And it's very difficult to portray him as a ring-wing nut."

Two years later, Kansas's Republican party backed a moderate, Sheila Frahm, for the Senate, but a conservative firebrand from the House, Sam Brownback, won the nomination — and triumphed in November.

Conservatives often excel in primaries because their supporters are more energized, particularly in low-turnout primaries, than their opposite numbers. The candidates are sometimes particularly savvy and organized about using telephone and targeted mail drives to reach voters. If the turnout this November is as low as experts predict, these advantages could help the most ideological candidates.

A Vulnerability

That is why Ms. Moseley-Braun should not rest easy. The senator has been dogged by an assortment of accusations about ethical lapses and financial irregularities that began even before she was sworn in and virtually guaranteed that she would be vulnerable against any Republican. Mr. Fitzgerald, a state senator, won the chance to take her on in part because he is a millionaire who spent nearly \$7 million on the primary race.

Charles E. Cook Jr., editor of a nonpartisan political newsletter here, said Republican leaders made out Mr. Fitzgerald as an extremist since they believed that Ms. Didrickson, the state comptroller, was the perfect candidate. "If Loleta Didrickson never showed up, Republicans would have been very content with Fitzgerald,"

Mr. Cook said. "He is not nearly as far to the right as she is to the left." Ms. Moseley-Braun, he added, "is still in serious trouble."

Perhaps the biggest problem for Mr. Fitzgerald is not that he is a fierce opponent of abortion and gun control, but that his campaign will be haunted by attacks leveled by his own party during the primary that are bound to resurface in Ms. Moseley-Braun's campaign commercials. Former Senator Bob Dole, for one, attacked Mr. Fitzgerald as "out there on the fringe." Gov. Jim Edgar said, "His campaign and views are a distortion."

Not So Radical

Democrats hope the Illinois race will mirror what happened in a recent California race to fill the seat of the late Representative Walter Capps, a Democrat. The Republican hierarchy backed a centrist to take on Mr. Capps's widow, Lois. A more conservative candidate won the primary but lost to Ms. Capps this month. Yet there is no guarantee that the party-backed candidate, Brooks Firestone, would have won either.

One Democrat who never learned his lesson was former Gov. Edmund G. Brown of California. In 1966, when Ronald Reagan took him on, Mr. Brown dismissed him as "fond of embracing far right-wing Republican celebrities and attitudes," Mr. Brown lost.

In a book 10 years later, Mr. Brown predicted that Mr. Reagan would never be President: "I remain certain that the large majority of Americans outside the radical fringe of Reagan's own party will reject the man and his philosophy if given the facts about his record and his radical political thought."

The lesson: Democrats should be careful what they wish for. They are saddled with probably the most conservative Congress in history, filled with members they thought were too far out on the fringe to reach Capitol Hill.

New York's Critics

Continued From Page 9

(with a distinctly anti-Eastern accent for a former New Yorker) that "New York's much ballyhooed 'resurgence'" is more public relations than economics. At the behest of the city's real estate industry, he charged, we have exaggerated our turnaround while ignoring more significant shifts in places like Houston, Boston and, God forbid, Los Angeles.

Because our industry is clustered in a few blocks of midtown Manhattan, he said, we have been lulled into complacency by Mr. Giuliani's soothing reductions in crime without even realizing that economic growth in the other four boroughs has been stagnant for years. (At least the city is doing better than the surrounding three-state region.)

Manhattan-Centered

"Not surprisingly, the Manhattan media elite tends to share perceptions growing out of common experiences," Mr. Kotkin wrote. He even quoted a Smith College professor, Stanley Rothman, who said: "These guys are basically all from the same place. They all read The New York Times and they talk to each other more than anyone else."

Asked in an interview to explain a recent New York Times poll that found that the image of New York around the country had vastly improved, Mr. Kotkin laughed and said all of us have created that perception with our flattering newsweekly profiles of Mr. Giuliani, our merry Seinfeld episodes, our Fortune cover stories promoting New York as the most improved city for business.

"The fact is that Houston and Dallas have had much stronger recoveries than New York, but you never read about that because you don't know about it in New York," he said. He doesn't seem to understand that our frame of reference is our own historical experience, not that of lesser cities.

Mr. Kotkin is no conservative, but his skepticism has been echoed in right-of-center publications like The Weekly Standard, The Economist, National Review and The Financial Times of London. Many conservatives seem uneasy with the idea that New York could begin to turn itself around while retaining its rent control system, high tax structure and enormous municipal budget. And the libertarians among them recoil at the Mayor's notion that government should encourage civility. Even The City Journal, a quarterly published by Mr. Giuliani's favorite think tank, the Manhattan Institute, reminds the Mayor in its current issue that New York's city and state tax burden is twice as high per capita as those of the average Midwestern or Eastern city, and nowhere near as low as those of the South and West.

William Tucker, who wrote an article in The Weekly Standard in January titled "New York City, Economic

Backwater," said in an interview that New Yorkers are so excited to have escaped their doldrums that they don't realize how much greater the booms are in places like Research Triangle Park in North Carolina. For all the hype that he accuses us of giving New York's multimedia industry in downtown's Silicon Alley, the community remains tiny and may be growing stagnant. Several promising New York-based Web sites have recently closed down, including two last week.

"New York is doing tremendously well this year, but there are all these underlying structural difficulties with the city's economy that are invisible now because the market is so high," he said. "It's still crushing small businesses with its tax structure, which makes me think of what unbelievably vast potential the city would have if it really got in gear."

The Giuliani administration, of course, argues that it has just begun the task of rolling away years of anti-business policies, and insists that the turnaround has just begun. But The Financial Times says the recovery has not been evenly distributed.

"The Wall Street boom, and the megabucks it has generated in New York, has already driven up property prices to the point where, by and large, only the reasonably well-off middle classes (and those benefiting from controlled rents) can afford to live in Manhattan," Richard Tomkins wrote in the newspaper last weekend. "Conspicuous consumption is rampant, and the highest form of artistic endeavor is regarded as the ability to get a table at Balhazar."

Creative Complacency

Though this trend may mean more ad pages and higher revenues for all of us, many writers have suggested that it is spreading a stifling blanket of complacency over the city's "creative sector," which often thrives in hard times. Dwight Garner, an editor at the on-line magazine Salon, wrote last year that he is taking the subway more than ever now, seeing it as "one of the last places where the city feels genuinely alert, racially mixed, edgy, engaged." Robert Fitch, author of "The Assassination of New York," says the city's failures to create economic diversity are having serious cultural consequences.

"There's a somnolent quality to the characteristic areas of New York City activity," said Mr. Fitch, a professor at New York University who will be making this point in a speech to the Socialist Scholars Conference this weekend. "Where's the vitality in the art world? In music and dance? Cultural life has been narrowed down to entertainment."

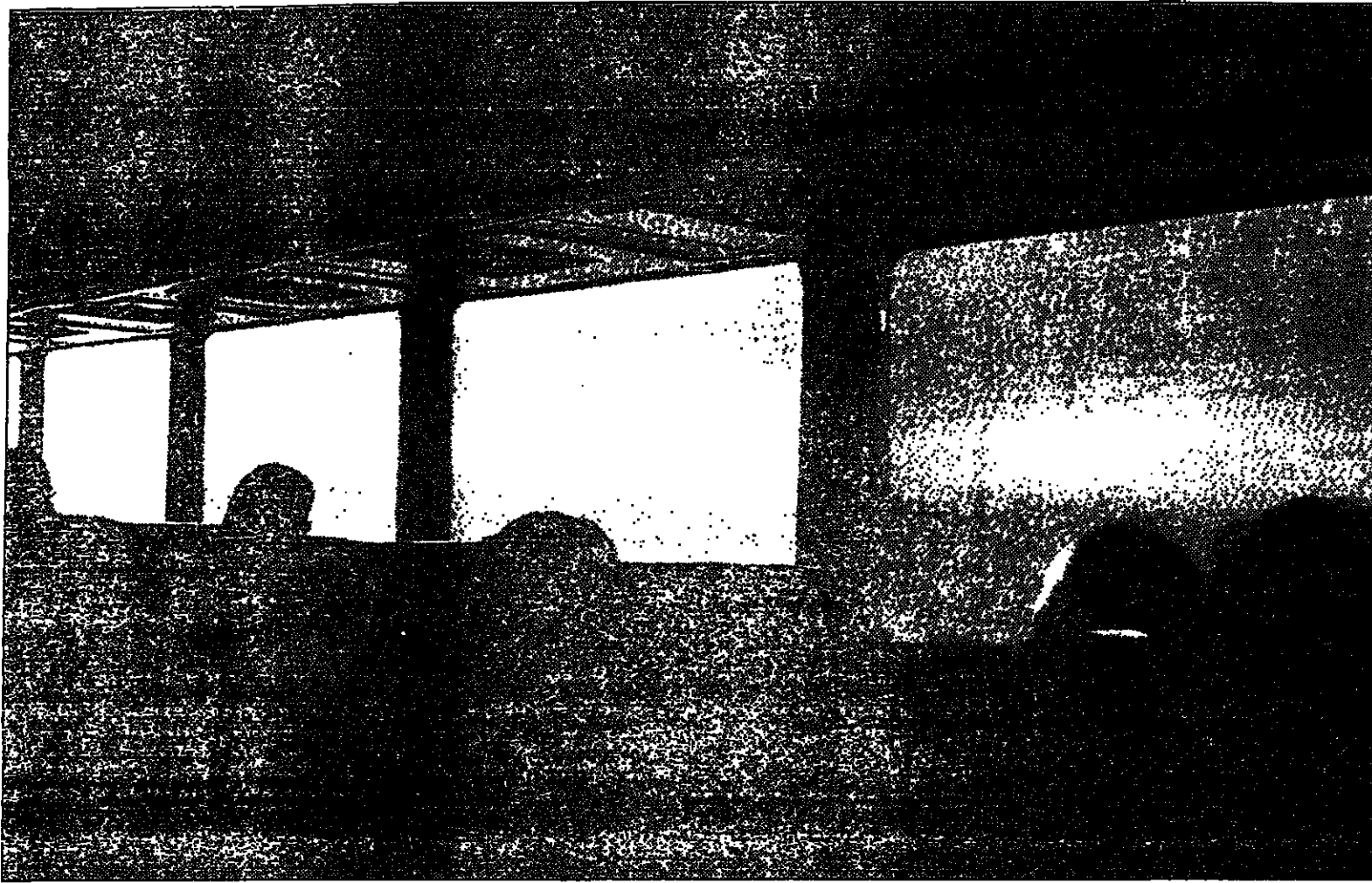
Fortunately, no one need ever know of these fringe sessionists with their talk of Houston and underground railroads, if we can simply remain united and ignore them. By the way, does anyone know if the subway runs beneath Midtown?

The Nation

The South's History Rises, Again and Again



Near Dundee, Miss.



Greyhound bus en route to Memphis.

Continued From Page 9

advance in a straight line could be seen Tuesday morning at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, where the Sovereignty Commission files were unsealed.

Ellie J. Dahmer, the widow of Vernon Dahmer, a leader for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Hattiesburg whose 1966 firebombing death is being reinvestigated, was there with her two children, hoping to discover something in her late husband's file that would implicate a local Ku Klux Klan leader, Sam Bowers. "At last, Mississippi is willing to rebuild some of its past," said Mrs. Dahmer, clutching the agency's surveillance records on her husband.

But also on hand was Richard Barrett, a white lawyer from Jackson who defended the members of the Sovereignty Commission as patriots. He handed out fliers arguing that Mississippi's streets were safer and its schools were better when the commission was at work.

The commission, supported by tax dollars and housed in the Capitol, was, in the words of a longtime Mississippi journalist, Bill Minor, the "K.G.B. of the cotton patches." As the civil

Confronting the past is cathartic. But it also provokes resentment.

rights movement was sustained by the Federal courts, Mississippi and several other Southern states institutionalized their resistance by creating such agencies to track the activities, associations, political affiliations and sexual proclivities of their citizens.

When the Mississippi Legislature shut the agency, it sealed the records — those that had not been destroyed — for 50 years. The American Civil Liberties Union and several other plaintiffs challenged the closing of the files, and succeeded in opening them 29 years early.

The records show that the commission used both physical and economic intimidation to fight its foes. A 1958 memorandum from a commission investigator, for example, noted approvingly that steps had been taken to silence a black preacher, W. B. Ridgeway of Hattiesburg, who had testified before a Congressional committee about the curtailment of black voting rights.

"Economic pressure had been applied to members of his congregation in such a way that they got on Ridgeway pretty hard and effectively," wrote the investigator, Zack J. VanLandingham, "and since that time there has been nothing heard out of Ridgeway."

Few details were too inconsequential for the commission's records. The purchase of a new Singer sewing machine was noted in the file on Rita Schwerner, a civil rights worker whose husband, Michael, was later murdered. License plate numbers were collected and traced. Marital spats were detailed.

States' Rights Redux

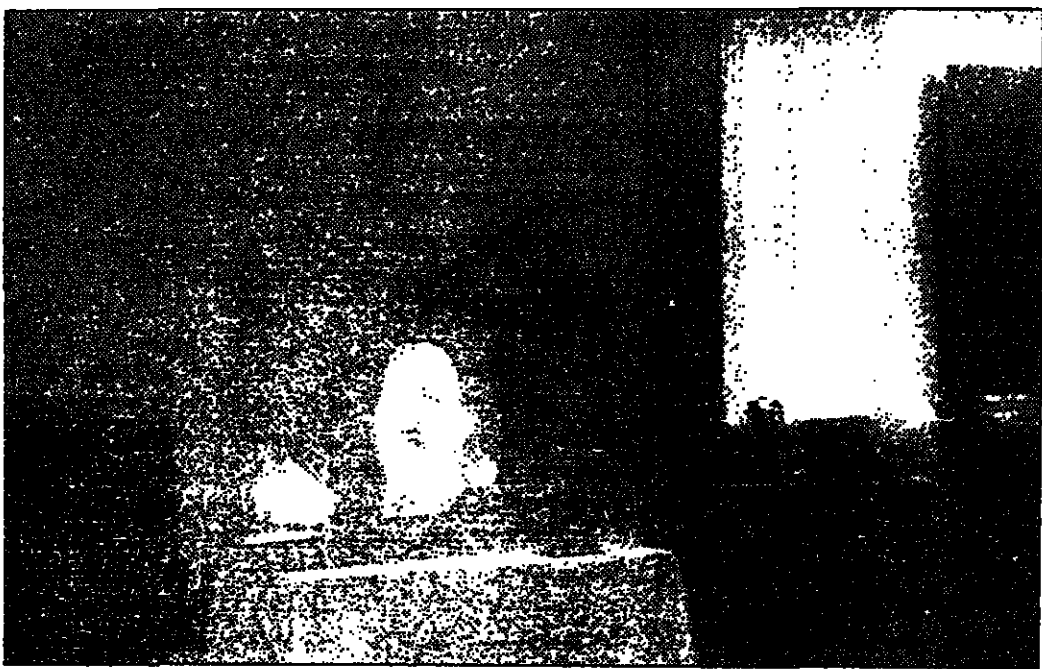
Against that legacy, it was hard to miss the irony unfolding in the Capitol, where lawmakers argued last week with Governor Fordice, a Republican, over his insistence that voters show identification at the polls.

Last month, Mr. Fordice vetoed a bill that would have made Mississippi the final state to adhere to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, which requires states to make registration forms available in drivers' license bureaus, social service agencies and other state offices. Mr. Fordice has said the "motor voter" law should be renamed the "welfare voter" law, and has charged that it is an unconstitutional imposition on his state's rights.

Under pressure from the Justice Department, however, he has said he would sign a bill that



Eudora, Miss.



Uncle Henry's Place and Inn, Lula, Miss.

included a mandatory voter identification provision to deter fraud. The Legislature has rejected that proposal, specifically because of objections from black Mississippians who harbor fresh memories of the obstacles erected by the state to keep them from voting in the past.

State Senator John Horhn, a black Democrat from Jackson, said black Mississippians were very suspicious of the voter identification requirement, given that the state once had an agency charged with the surveillance of its citizens and the abridgment of their rights. "It's something that we are very wary of and that we don't trust," he said.

Mr. Fordice charged last week that many of the legislators opposing his proposal "are here because of voter fraud." Mr. Horhn responded by saying that the Governor "has repeatedly shown himself to be a callous, unthinking doer."

On Monday and Tuesday in Oxford, members of the President's Advisory Board on Race gathered at the University of Mississippi for a forum dedicated to gauging the community's progress on race. Again, the old South and the new one clashed.

A black student and a white student from Oxford High School declared their friendship with a heartfelt hug, but also pointed out that black and white students segregated themselves at lunch. Black speakers complained about the lack of a black doctor in town, adding that a

nonwhite physician would have trouble attracting white patients. When a white man in the audience stood to proclaim that it was his "freedom" to wave the Confederate flag at Ole Miss football games, a white student responded by saying that most students would appreciate it if he did not.

Former Gov. William F. Winter, a member of the advisory panel, and John Hope Franklin, the historian who serves as its chairman, both commented on the progress reflected in the simple fact that such a discussion was being held at Ole Miss, a place with such a history of racial strife. The university's chancellor, Robert C. Khayat, who has tried to tone down Confederate symbolism at the school, said events in the South "move forward and backward, seldom in a straight line."

Such acknowledgements of the region's complexities are becoming more common across the South, as are apologies for past behavior. Last fall, at a 40th anniversary commemoration of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School, Arkansas' Republican Governor, Mike Huckabee, said the violent white resistance to school's integration "may be forgivable, but it is not excusable."

"In the Proverbs," added Mr. Huckabee, formerly a Baptist preacher, "it says that he who conceals his sins does not prosper. But whoever professes and renounces them will find mercy."

Looking Back

At Jackson Hole

By PETER T. KILBORN

SINCE the start of the 1970's, an obscure group of economists and health specialists had been flogging notions of universal medical care to the deaf ears of legislators and Presidents.

The group's organizers, Paul M. Ellwood, formerly a pediatric neurologist in Minneapolis, and Alain C. Enthoven, a health economist at Stanford University, had a theory about expanding the cost-efficient practices of managed care into a vast system that would cover all Americans.

'Grotesque' Version

Then six years ago, during the Presidential primary campaigns in New Hampshire, they received a call from Bill Clinton's health advisers, who wanted a briefing about the plan. Suddenly, the Jackson Hole Group, as they called themselves, was a household name.

"The rest is bad political history," Dr. Ellwood said.

Four years after the demise of the Clinton Administration's "grotesque" formulation of the Jackson Hole plan, as Mr. Enthoven puts it, managed care now dominates the marketplace, having evolved on its own because of economic pressures.

Eighty-five percent of all workers are now covered by some sort of managed-care plan, up from 50 percent four years ago. But the results are mixed, many consumers are unhappy and health care has returned to the top of the nation's political agenda. No one in Congress or the White House has an appetite any longer for grand schemes and revolutions. And no one is picking the brains of Jackson Hole this time around.

As they look back at the swift and far-reaching changes they helped inspire, the Jackson Hole planners say they were right about some things and wrong about others.

"The real weakness in the system now is nobody trusts anybody," Dr. Ellwood said. "Health plans are on the defensive, doctors are on the defensive and patients are skeptical."

The unadulterated Jackson Hole plan was simple, at least in theory. Called managed competition, it envisioned a Government-guided system of private health plans and insurance companies that would compete to enroll large regional pools of workers and other groups. Vigorous competition would drive down the cost of care. The savings would then be used to extend health care to the uninsured. Plans that enrolled disproportionately high numbers of young, healthy workers would subsidize plans with older and sicker workers.

In hindsight, Dr. Ellwood and Mr. Enthoven acknowledge that it was unrealistic to expect Congress to revamp the whole health care system with a single bill.

Peter Bolland, a health care consultant in Berkeley, Calif., said the plan was "a plausible model that probably could have worked with modification." One flaw, he said, was the assumption that employers could readily be organized into regional groups to purchase care. Another was "a distinct lack of choice on behalf of consumers," he said.

No Consumer Voice

Mary Jane England, a psychiatrist and a Jackson Hole member, said the plan was drawn up without the involvement of consumers. "From 1993 to now, the biggest shift that we've seen is the shift to consumers," said Dr. England, who is the president of the Washington Business Group on Health, an organization of large employers.

It was the luxury of wide-open choice, and the accompanying rise in costs, that inspired the Administration's pursuit of a plan in the first place. Enrollees in the prevailing fee-for-service plans could get whatever care they wished from doctors who could prescribe and charge whatever they wished. Insurers would write them checks and then raise the premiums they charged employers.

As managed care has spread, so

have complaints from consumers and physicians about the loss of choice and prerogatives. A consumer rebellion has already prompted at least 43 states to enact laws expanding consumer rights.

But managed care, left to the marketplace, has had some successes. It met the overriding goal of the planners — stopping the soaring inflation in health costs at the start of the 1990's. The nation's spending for health care in 1996 reached \$1 trillion, 4.4 percent and \$50 billion more than in 1995 — the smallest percentage increase in 37 years.

Still, the planners did not anticipate how the marketplace would reward the system's participants. Employers are unscathed. They have been holding the line on the premiums they pay to insurers and managed care organizations, forcing the managed care industry as a whole to lose money last year. And employers have been requiring workers to pay ever larger shares of the premiums.

As a result, the Employee Benefit Research Institute reports, 41.4 million Americans under 65, or 17.7 percent of the population, has no insurance at all, compared with 38.3 million, or 17 percent, in 1992.

As the White House and Congress tinker with the system the marketplace wrought, that gap could begin to

Health-care theorists assess their legacy.

shrink. Last year, Congress voted to try to extend coverage to five million of the nation's 10 million children, and this year the President has proposed extending Medicare coverage to the uninsured among people who are 55 to 65.

Such initiatives have become possible, Dr. Ellwood says, because of the Federal budget savings arising from managed care's leveling of health care costs. "Our idea," he said, "was that enough money could be saved from managed competition to pay for the coverage of those who didn't have it."

Healthier, Not Happier

For those who are insured, it is too soon to tell whether managed care has improved health in any significant way. Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that people are no sicker than they were in the fee-for-service days.

But managed care, by encouraging preventive medicine, with all but free mammograms, physical examinations, prenatal care and childhood immunization, has probably produced some health improvements.

"Maybe people aren't happier," said Uwe E. Reinhardt, a health economist at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton. "But they're healthier."

This month, Mr. Clinton told the American Medical Association that he is taking a "step by step" approach to health care reform.

In the new debate, the lightning rods are the President's promise of better quality of care — implying more choice and regulation — and industry's warnings of rising costs, driven by regulation, that could leave still more people uninsured.

And the debate will center on new questions, like how much government should intervene to stop abuses of the market-driven health care system; how far to go toward coverage for the working poor who have no insurance; how much choice to allow H.M.O. enrollees; how much to let doctors reclaim control of health care decisions, and how much consumers, their employers and the economy will accept in higher premiums to pay for greater choice.

"The best thing the Clinton plan did," said Jack Faris, president of the National Federation of Independent Business and a participant in the Jackson Hole deliberations, "was to tell us in the private sector we'd better get our act together and improve quality and lower cost and give us a wider selection of care."



With the costs of managed care rising, Norman C. Payson, the new chief executive of Oxford Health Plans, made a case for huge rate increases last week. Oxford lost \$20 million last year on individual policies, whose holders tend to be sicker than people in more profitable group plans.

John S. Brown / The New York Times

ECONOMY

Royal Blue Collars: Some Laborers Find Princely Pay

By PETER PASSELL

FOR a quarter-century, the message from the job market has been loud and clear. Avoid traditional blue-collar work. Go to college. Scramble for a foothold in the service industry elite, where unions and seniority mean little and adaptability is the most prized talent. If you are really ambitious and prepared to risk your life savings, start your own business.

But don't try telling that to Lynn Hummel, a former bank clerk who tripled her earnings by becoming a longshoreman in Los Angeles. Or to Eugene Vasser, who says he makes "substantially more than \$100,000 a year" working for a welding equipment maker in Cleveland that pays according to individual productivity. Or to Herman Aguirre, a Colombian immigrant who worked his way up from janitor to master jeweler in a New York City loft factory and now commands a six-figure income.

This handful of redwoods, of course, should not be mistaken for the forest. The median annual earnings of male high school graduates in 1995 were just \$29,000, down by one-fifth since 1976 after taking inflation into account and barely 60 percent of those of their counterparts with college credentials. The earnings data for women show the trend, too: the

average pay for those with high school diplomas was \$19,856 in 1995, down 5 percent in 20 years and just 59 percent of the earnings of college graduates.

Nonetheless, in the right jobs and under the right circumstances, "there's still a pot of gold for blue-collar workers at the end of an increasingly slender rainbow," said Daniel Hamermesh, an economist at the University of Texas.

For some, success turns on working longer and harder. For others, high pay comes with highly valued skills not taught in college. And, for still others it is a matter of breaking into the club — of joining one of the small, powerful unions that vault semiskilled workers into the upper-middle class. Even if only a handful can follow these paths, the lack of earnings opportunities for people who work with their hands makes every case worthy of a close look.

Consider Ms. Hummel, who was a 28-year-old, divorced mother of a chronically ill child and had no health insurance back in 1984, when she first heard about job openings at the Port of Los Angeles.

"All I knew — and needed to know — was that it paid well and came with medical benefits," she recalled.

Along with thousands of others, she applied for a place on the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union roster of "casuals" — people who are eligible for

employment on the wharves at union scale when seasonal demand exceeds the supply of union members. Five years and hundreds of phone calls later, she was allowed to take a test to prove she had the dexterity and strength for the work.

In an era when few women worked at the sprawling port, the initiation was rough. "The men called us tramps," she remembered. Worse, there was little formal training, and few colleagues were willing to show her the ropes in a risky job involving heavy equipment. But she persisted, eventually quitting her full-time job at Coast Federal Savings so she could accumulate enough hours to qualify for full union membership.

Ms. Hummel, now 43, made \$81,000 last year operating the oversized forklifts that stack the big steel containers and instructing casuals to maneuver trailer trucks through the maze of dockside obstacles.

Most longshoremen make considerably more than Ms. Hummel: last year, full-time workers at West Coast ports averaged \$97,000. Unionized clerks working comparable hours averaged \$114,000, while foremen averaged \$148,000.

Ms. Hummel has opted for regular hours, avoiding better-paid weekend and night work. And she can afford to. She is now married to a longshoreman, and her daughter, who has grown out of her childhood asthma, has managed to join the union, too.

Loading and unloading ships is dirty and fatiguing work. "Just try attaching a 72-pound lashing bar to a container when it's raining and windy," Ms. Hummel said.

But mulling and bricklaying are difficult jobs, too, though median annual earnings in those two fields barely top \$35,000. Longshoremen earn much more for one obvious reason: their union controls the supply of labor at every West Coast port.

There is a less obvious reason, too — what Lawrence Katz, an economist at Harvard, calls "the importance of being unimportant." While the \$700 million paid to West Coast longshoremen in 1996 was hardly small change, their wages represent only a tiny fraction of the total cost of moving hundreds of billions of dollars worth of international cargo from factory to consumer.

But just as competition has eroded the seemingly impenetrable positions of other elite unions — notably those of the construction trades — pier workers today sometimes become vulnerable, too. There are no legal impediments, for example, to someone building a modern, high-volume port in Mexico, out of the reach of the union.

"It would kill us," said Joe Miniac, president of the Pacific Maritime Association, a trade group for cargo carriers on the West Coast.

The Profits of Productivity

If Ms. Hummel's good fortune seems a throwback to 30 years ago, when many unions had the leverage to dictate wages, Eugene Vasser's is in part a function of an even older labor tradition: piecework.

Mr. Vasser left Birmingham, Ala., after graduating from high school in 1968. Then he served in Vietnam as a noncommissioned officer, where he coordinated Army flight operations. And then he hit gold — a job with the Lincoln Electric Company.

Lincoln is America's largest specialized manufacturer of welding equipment, with sales of \$1.16 billion in 1997. But the reason that the company's name is familiar to almost every business school student is its longstanding commitment to linking pay to both individual productivity and the profitability of the corporation.

Millions of American workers, from sales representatives to truckers, are paid according to their output. Many others collect annual bonuses tied to their employers' profits or revenues. But Lincoln is nearly unique among large American companies, paying all shop-floor workers according to a formula based on how much they produce, how much they contribute to the team effort and how much the company earns.

In Mr. Vasser's case, that adds up to a whole lot. Last year, despite taking more than a month's unpaid leave in the Army Reserve, he had



High-school graduate Eugene Vasser, 47, works long hours to earn over \$100,000 as a factory worker at Cleveland's Lincoln Electric Company.

income of more than \$100,000 from Lincoln.

In part, that was a matter of focus. He tends three different work stations in what could pass for a 1950's metal shop, tackling one set of tasks when there is slack in another. He takes just 20 minutes for lunch in his nonunion employer's grimy functional cafeteria. And he is constantly monitoring inventories of supplies. "You have to be pro-active," explained Mr. Vasser, who is 47.

In part, too, his income reflects the long hours he puts in — typically 10 hours a day during the week, plus 8 hours on Saturday.

"I have a very understanding wife," he said.

Delayed gratification is apparently the watchword in many phases of Mr. Vasser's life. He lives simply in Twinsburg, Ohio, far from the tumult of Cleveland, and commutes in a five-year-old Toyota pickup. While three children (including two, by a first marriage, now in college) can run through a lot of cash, he and his wife, a social worker, still manage to save 40 percent of their income.

"When I retire, we'll go back to Alabama," he explained, where the Vassers have already bought some land.

Mr. Vasser, who has been at Lincoln Electric for 25 years, ranks in the top 10 percent in pay at the company. But all 3,400 Lincoln Electric shop-floor workers do well, with wages averaging \$58,000 in 1995 (the last year for which the company would provide data), not counting the value of their rich package of medical, vacation and retirement benefits. And the company, which is publicly traded, hardly operates as a charity. Last year's net income of \$85 million represented a healthy 20 percent return on shareholder equity in a very competitive industry.

Is there a lesson here for companies fighting tooth and nail to keep down wages — or for the average production line worker making \$13 an hour? Lincoln Electric thinks so. It publishes how-to books on incentive pay and invites anyone with a serious interest in the subject to study how the company manages to pay twice as much as competitors do while remaining a low-cost producer of welding machinery.

But very few manufacturers have taken the pay-for-performance route, and the reasons are not hard to fathom.

For one thing, it is difficult to sustain large differences in pay for the same job category. Measuring individual productivity in industrial settings can be a challenge, too, points out Edward Leamer, an economist at the Graduate School of Management at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Lincoln maintains an ever-changing catalogue that rates thousands of operations according to the time and skill they require.

"People know each other's warts and bumps, and they don't always talk about them politely" at the regular shop-floor meetings, acknowledged Dick Sabo, a spokesman for Lincoln.

Lincoln's success is also difficult to replicate because it requires highly disciplined and motivated labor. The pace is fierce and overtime is often mandatory. Moreover, with very few foremen around, workers must often make decisions on their own.

"Only one applicant in 75 is hired,"

Mr. Sabo said, "and nearly half of them leave within 90 days."

The Apprenticeship Track

Herman Aguirre's work setting could hardly be more different than Lincoln Electric's Dickensian shop floor. The cheerful loft where Mr. Aguirre labors on Greenwich Street in Manhattan's TriBeCa neighborhood looks like an exceptionally tidy artist's atelier. But his rag-to-riches blue-collar experience is probably even harder to mass-produce.

Mr. Aguirre, the son of a cafe owner, finished high school in Bogotá, Colombia, then worked there as a shoe and dress salesman. But ambition drove him to emigrate in 1980 to the United States, where relatives of relatives introduced him to José Hess, the owner of a company bearing his name that makes high-end gold and diamond jewelry.

Hired as a cleaner-upper and all-around gofer, Mr. Aguirre soon found his way to an informal apprenticeship, learning jewelry-making late in the afternoon after he had finished his janitorial duties.

Mr. Aguirre had no previous training as an artisan, but he clearly had the aptitude, working his way from tasks like polishing finished jewelry to far more demanding ones. At 40, he is now José Hess Inc.'s model maker, carving prototypes of new designs from blocks of wax and creating elaborate instructions for casting and assembling the pieces. "He's at the top of the craft," said Mr. Hess, whose jewelry is sold at Fortnum and Saks, among other stores.

The job pays \$30 an hour, plus benefits. Mr. Aguirre, however, has set up a workshop in his home in Elmont, N.Y., where he labors nights and Saturdays at his regular wage; that brings his average weekly earnings from José Hess to close to \$2,000.

"With two children in Catholic school, parents in Colombia and a wife who stays home, I have a lot of bills to pay," Mr. Aguirre said.

This route to high-paying work — an apprenticeship in a demanding craft — is still open. But just barely. Efforts to integrate high school curricula with local job demands have yet to have much impact. Unions that run apprenticeship programs, mainly in construction trades, are losing ground. And — probably most important — corporations are not motivated to invest heavily in worker training if the skills are portable.

"Employers won't train people who have a high probability of not being there next year," explained Alan Krueger, an economist at Princeton University.

Another key factor is that computers are changing — and usually reducing — the skills needed to perform traditional blue-collar crafts. Mr. Aguirre is now working to improve his English so he can use the software that is already available for designing simple jewelry. And it is a safe bet that the next generation of jewelry makers will need to know more about computers and less about carving butterflies out of wax.

Lessons From the Sea

The skills gap left by unions and employers could, in theory, be filled by government. Bill Clinton came to office preaching just this, and it remains on his agenda. But if hopes of a big push in training have not been

fulfilled, there is evidence elsewhere in the economy of the payoff to government investment in "human capital." Indeed, that is how Neil Scheuerlein managed his shot at the brass ring.

Mr. Scheuerlein finished high school in Concord, Calif., in 1976. With better-than-average grades, he could have gone to a good college at the state's expense. But rebelling against the values of the day, Mr. Scheuerlein enlisted in the Navy immediately after graduation. He trained for two years to be a nuclear technician and then spent four years as an electrician's mate on the U.S.S. Porgy, a fast-attack submarine. But, disappointed by the prospects for advancement — "they weren't going to let me command a sub," he jokes — and yearning for a stable family life, he left the Navy in 1982 with the rank of electrician first class.

The nuclear Navy has long been a fast track to jobs in the commercial power industry; nuclear utilities covet the training, military discipline and rigorous psychological screening required for submarine service. Like many others before him, Mr. Scheuerlein followed the path of least resistance, taking a job at Southern California Edison's San Onofre nuclear complex north of San Diego.

At San Onofre, where twin 1,100-megawatt units can produce a fifth of the electricity consumed in Southern California, Mr. Scheuerlein quickly rose through the ranks. Beginning as an apprentice equipment operator, he passed the Federal licensing test in 1990 to become a control-room operator — the highest nonmanagement job in a nuclear plant.

The work carries substantial responsibilities. Like airline pilots, control-room operators mix long stretches of boring routine with occasional moments of tense decision-making. Shutting down a malfunctioning reactor prematurely can cost the utility millions of dollars; permitting one to operate when there is a risk of releasing radiation is obviously even worse.

And, like airline pilots, nuclear control room operators are rewarded with modest hours and large paychecks. Mr. Scheuerlein works as many as 50 hours some weeks, but gets 14 consecutive days off in every five-week cycle. He is reluctant to reveal his exact pay. But under the Utility Workers of America union contract, control-room operators make \$34.70 an hour plus very substantial premiums for working overtime, nights and weekends. "Just say I make between \$80,000 and \$110,000 a year," Mr. Scheuerlein suggested.

"Do I have enough money? Of course not," he said. His income supports two sons in grade school plus a stay-at-home wife, René, a college graduate just finishing the requirements for a California teaching credential. And there are mortgage payments on a house in the relatively expensive town of Oceanside.

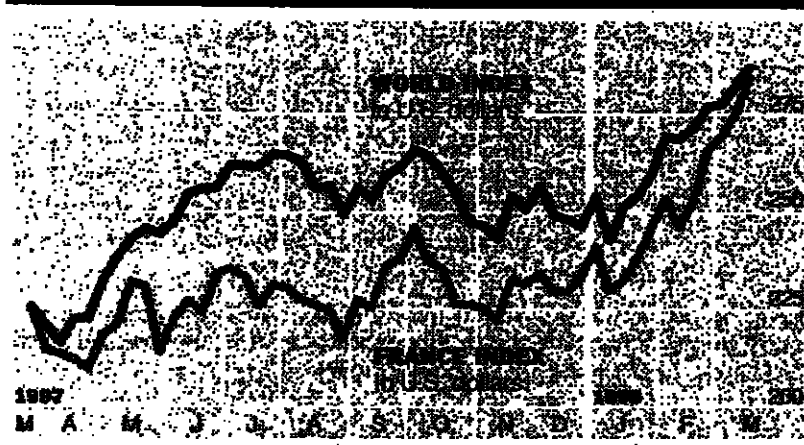
Mr. Scheuerlein served a long, poorly paid apprenticeship in the Navy, a qualification that Southern California Edison has found to be at least as useful for nuclear control room operations as a college degree. What's more, the Federal Government insists that a minimum number of licensed technicians be on the job at all times at nuclear power plants. For power companies, it pays to offer hefty wages to licensed operators in order to minimize turnover.

But as intriguing (and inspiring) as the success of these four workers may be, there is little in their stories to suggest a plausible route to upward mobility for the large majority of uncredentialed workers. Union bargaining power has long been on the wane. Lincoln Electric has few imitators. Employers are understandably reluctant to invest in long apprenticeships.

So the conventional wisdom rings true: Knowledge workers are kings, and opportunities for those lacking a college education are extremely limited.

"In an economy as large and varied as America's, you'll find some blue-collar workers who win the lottery," said Mr. Krueger of Princeton. "But the sad fact is, most people who lack white-collar skills aren't finding jobs that support a middle-class life."

WORLD STOCK MARKETS



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Index, a measure of stock market performance. The FT indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

Country	Index	IN U.S. DOLLARS			IN LOCAL CURR.		
		Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.
Australia	214.85	-0.1	22	7.3	22	3.62	214.94
Austria	211.98	0.8	19	12.1	17	1.61	201.99
Belgium	306.95	2.8	10	20.8	8	2.47	288.42
Brazil	265.18	2.8	11	11.2	18	1.56	553.67
Britain	387.95	2.7	12	18.9	11	2.84	345.62
Canada	240.03	0.2	21	13.0	16	1.83	246.51
Denmark	494.24	1.9	14	10.5	19	1.27	470.05
Finland	371.84	1.2	16	33.5	3	2.08	434.01
France	285.01	3.4	6	19.1	10	2.06	274.87
Germany	264.80	1.0	17	15.4	13	1.28	252.52
Hong Kong	357.95	3.9	4	0.3	26	4.48	356.03
Indonesia	49.75	2.7	13	-24.7	28	2.29	294.51
Ireland	519.43	3.2	7	29.4	7	1.86	534.58
Italy	152.78	3.6	5	29.9	6	1.19	205.85
Japan	99.98	-3.4	27	4.9	23	0.98	82.41
Malaysia	220.52	6.0	3	34.1	2	2.22	310.21
Mexico	1,613.73	1.8	15	-10.5	27	1.50	15,147.14
Netherlands	473.58	0.4	20	10.5	12	2.05	446.88
New Zealand	76.63	-1.3	25	0.3	25	4.51	72.39
Norway	324.20	-1.1	24	1.5	24	1.87	335.08
Philippines	103.57	9.3	1	30.6	5	1.05	194.97
Singapore	241.78	7.0	2	7.4	21	1.79	178.89
South Africa	289.35	-0.5	23	9.0	20	2.79	314.95
Spain	381.15	3.0	8	32.9	4	1.70	425.29
Sweden	559.21	0.9	18	19.1	9	1.77	680.45
Switzerland	387.32	-1.9	26	13.7	14	1.07	359.95
Thailand	32.06	-5.3	28	66.1	1	6.32	49.34
United States	448.83	2.9	9	13.2	15	1.41	448.83

COMPOSITE INDICES			
Europe	341.41	1.8	18.1
Pacific Basin	111.43	-2.0	5.2
Europe/Pacific	207.32	0.6	13.7
World	287.56	1.7	13.3

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1998 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's.

CURRENCY

Exchange rate	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	130.41	128.15	+1.76	122.65
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.8302	1.8185	+0.64	1.6866
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.4205	1.4080	+0.88	1.3785
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.6689	1.6698	-0.05	1.6402

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets; exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

March 16-20: The Dow Gains 300 Points, Putting the 9,000 Mark Within Reach

PRICES	
DOMESTIC EQUITIES	
Broad market	Up 2.86%
S. & P. 500 index	1,099.16
Blue chips	Up 3.53%
Dow 30 industrials	8,906.43
Small capitalization	Up 1.17%
Russell 2000 index	474.25
DOMESTIC BONDS	
Treasuries	Up 0.10%
Ryan Labs. Total Return	217.04
Municipals	Up 0.66%
Bond Buyer index	123.94
Corporates	Up 0.13%
Merrill Lynch Master index	952.70

AROUND THE WORLD

European stocks	Up 1.82%
F.T.-Actuaries Europe	341.41
Asian stocks	Down 2.03%
F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin	111.43
Gold	Down 1.25%
New York cash price	\$292.20

Foreign indexes are given in dollar terms.

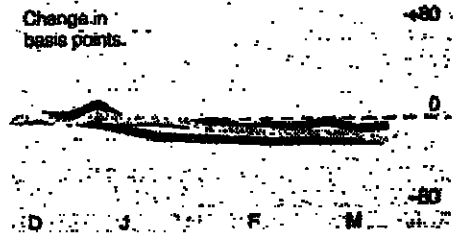
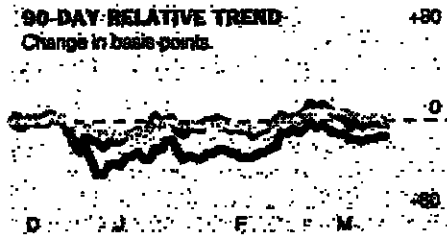
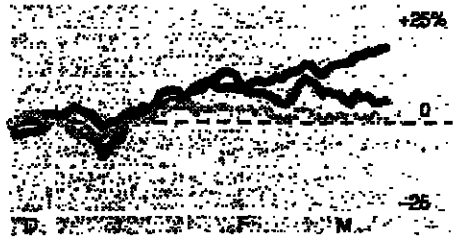
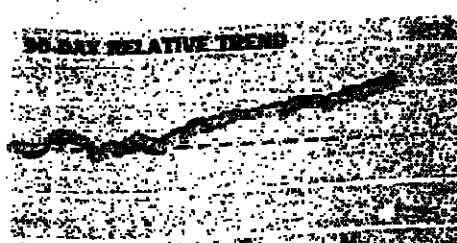
YIELDS

BONDS	
Long bonds	5.88%
30-year Treasuries	Down 1 basis pt.
Notes	5.50%
2-year Treasuries	Up 3 basis pts.
Municipals	5.21%
Bond Buyer index	Down 5 basis pts.

100 basis points = 1 percentage point

OTHER INVESTMENTS

Money market funds	5.02%
Taxable average	Up 1 basis pt.
Bank C.D.'s	4.98%
1-year small savers	Unchanged
Stocks	1.44%
S. & P. 500 dividend yield	Down 5 b.p.



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An Endangered Act

Of all the environmental statutes born in the early 1970's, the Endangered Species Act has been the most contentious, setting developers who think it infringes on property rights against conservationists who see it as an indispensable legal weapon against the destruction of threatened species and their habitat. As it happens, the act is celebrating its 25th anniversary, and is also up for legislative renewal. Congress's task is to make the act less adversarial while giving even greater protection to threatened species.

Two recent events reaffirm the act's potential. First, the Federal Government announced a deal with a California lumber company to save an endangered seabird called the marbled murrelet by setting aside 15,000 acres of majestic redwoods that provide habitat for the bird. The redwoods, in effect, were spared to save the murrelet, much as the old-growth forests of the Pacific Northwest were spared to protect the spotted owl.

Shortly afterward, Federal wildlife agencies ordered state and local governments to restore salmon runs in watersheds stretching from California's Central Valley to Puget Sound in order to arrest the rapid decline of the Pacific salmon. That in turn will require major decisions on what to do about hydroelectric dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers, as well as painful adjustments in logging, housing and road building. If an acceptable plan is not forthcoming, the Government could theoretically shut down every big development project in the region.

Some local leaders in the Pacific Northwest welcomed the order as a timely antidote to shapeless development. "As we work to save the salmon, it may turn out that the salmon save us," said Paul Schell, the Mayor of Seattle. But most property owners hate it when the Feds show up brandishing the act. The Government sues, the owners counter-sue, and meanwhile the species in question slides toward extinction.

Hence the Senate's effort to make landowners partners in the effort to save species. Its bill would codify the use of "habitat conservation plans," a device promoted by the Clinton Administration to replace the litigious species-by-species approach with negotiated settlements that encompass entire ecosystems. Under such plans — the redwoods deal, for example — landowners agree to set aside certain tracts in exchange for the right to develop others. A "no surprises" policy protects landowners against changes in the plan unless the Government and the landowner jointly choose to revisit it.

The Administration supports the Senate bill because it would lock in what it sees as a successful strategy. But while it is laudable to engage landowners, the statute must also insure the recovery of endangered species. On this score, the Senate bill has several critical flaws. A companion bill in the House is better.

In the Senate bill, for example, the responsibility for shaping a habitat conservation plan — and then revising it later if things go wrong — is shared equally by the Government and the private landowners. The House bill tips the scales in favor of wildlife regulators. It requires more contingency planning up front, gives private environmental groups more say in the plan's design, provides for stricter biological monitoring and gives the Government more room (and money) to take corrective action if the species fails to recover. For many of the same reasons, the House bill would also provide a tighter safety net for species found on Federal lands like national forests.

There is obviously good cause to celebrate the agreement to save the California redwoods and the decision to save the Pacific salmon. But the celebration would be far merrier if Congress would write a law guaranteeing the right to revisit and strengthen such agreements if they do not work.

Baseball's Real Tradition

When media tycoon Rupert Murdoch bought the Los Angeles Dodgers from the descendants of Walter O'Malley last Thursday, there was much wringing of hands over the fact that the era of family ownership in Major League Baseball had finally ended, and that a new era of exclusively corporate ownership was at hand. Yet before too many tears are shed, let one truth be known. Baseball owners break fans' hearts, and that aspect of the game is not likely to change. It was Walter O'Malley who brought grief to Brooklyn, Horace Stoneham who silenced the old Polo Grounds, Clark Griffith who transported the Washington Senators to Minneapolis. Let us also not forget the wandering Athletics and the peripatetic Braves.

Baseball has always been a business run, with rare exceptions, by proprietors with an aversion to red ink far stronger than their professed loyalty to the traditions, rhythms and solidifying virtues of the game. Among these virtues has been baseball's demonstrated ability over the years to create a powerful emotional connection between team and community, each enlarging the other — to wit, the Dodgers and Brooklyn, an organic relationship casually sundered by Mr. O'Malley's departure.

Fans spend worrying about whether the new breed will be more or less respectful of tradition than the old. The question seems both touching and naïve. There is no disguising the fact that the media moguls who have bought into baseball have not done so because they love the game but because they believe the teams can serve their larger strategic ambitions. Years ago, for example, Ted Turner

bought the Atlanta Braves to provide reliable, cheap programming for his TBS Superstation, which in time became the foundation of his cable empire. Mr. Turner tried to block the sale of the Dodgers to Mr. Murdoch even as — delicious irony here — Mr. Murdoch was borrowing a page from the Turner playbook. Mr. Murdoch wanted the Dodgers in part to provide his regional sports network in California with a marquee attraction. The same impulse explains the interest of Cablevision, which already owns the New York Rangers and Knicks, in acquiring a piece of the New York Yankees.

What all this means for the game itself is unclear, but the possibilities are unsettling. Mr. Murdoch, as we all know, thinks globally and not at all. Will he be tempted to speed up the stately rhythms so beloved by bleachersites to make the game more appetizing to a foreign audience that seems to have developed a love affair with the rush-rush thrills of professional basketball? Will he push for Olympic participation by American professionals? Will he insist on a real "World Series," involving teams from, say, Latin America, Japan and even China?

All that seems hard to believe. But keep in mind that the Anaheim Angels, the Chicago Cubs, the Atlanta Braves and the Los Angeles Dodgers are now owned by media empires, while another empire stalks the Yankees. What matters to the people who run these empires and talk reverently of "the game" is, in the end, the numbers. That is just what mattered to Mr. O'Malley and, if history is a guide, that is all that will matter to Mr. Murdoch.

Editorial Observer/VERLYN KLINKENBORG

The Tet Offensive and the Scent of Memory

I live outside a village in Columbia County called Austerlitz. Perhaps one day that name will bring to my mind only the tiny post office there or the bare picnic ground near the town hall. But for now whenever I say or write Austerlitz, I also hear the echo of the names of other places — Jena, Borodino, Waterloo. Like the European town from which my town took its name, those were the sites of Napoleonic battles almost 200 years ago. From some names and even some dates, the scent of war cannot be expunged, from Verdun, for instance, and Gettysburg, from June 6 and Dec. 7. That is true, too, of Tet, the Vietnamese name for the Chinese Lunar New Year, and of two places with which it was first and forever linked 30 years ago, Khe Sanh and Hue.

The Tet offensive began in early morning on the 31st of January, 1968, with a Viet Cong attack on the American Embassy in Saigon, coordinated with attacks in many other locations across South Vietnam. Tet had several endings. One came in late February when, after bitter fighting, Hue was cleared, another when, a month

The early months of 1968 and the images of war.

later, the siege of Khe Sanh was lifted. The official close came when the United States Army issued a special order on April 1 declaring the end of the Tet counteroffensive. But that order was issued the day after what seems, in retrospect, to have been the real ending of Tet, an ending no one quite imagined: President Lyndon Johnson's announcement that he would not seek a second term in office.

In those two months, from Jan. 31 to March 31, many of the essential images that define our collective memory of Vietnam came into focus. Two have particular importance. On the second day of Tet, Brig. Gen. Nguyen Ngoc Loan, roaming the streets of Saigon with a blunt-nosed pistol, peremptorily executed a Viet Cong prisoner, whose death-grimace was soon as familiar as the iconic

face of Che. And on the last day of Tet, announcing his withdrawal from politics, President Johnson gazed into the television camera, looking almost as though he were tired of wearing his own head.

From this distance, it is stunning to realize how much happened at home in those two months. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara stepped down, to be replaced by Clark Clifford. Eugene McCarthy nearly won in New Hampshire. Bobby Kennedy and Richard Nixon entered the Presidential race. By late March, for the first time, a majority of Americans opposed the war. And all of this against the backdrop of nightly reports from Saigon, from the streets of Hue and from the red earth bunkers of Khe Sanh, where politics was given the only gravity it had, all of it prelude, in some dark sense, to the other domestic tragedies of 1968.

Thirty years is supposed to measure the span of a single generation, but it feels as though a dozen or more generations have passed since those days. Yet it all still resonates. The photographs from Khe Sanh and

Hue reprinted in the recent book "Requiem," a tribute to photographers who died in Vietnam, cut just as deep as they ever did, perhaps deeper, oddly, since each picture frames not only the war and the lives of soldiers and civilians but also the photographer's life. The words that Michael Herr wrote about Khe Sanh and Hue in "Dispatches" still snarl and snap with a cynicism that manages somehow to make room for disbelief.

"Everything I see," Herr wrote about Khe Sanh, "is blown through with smoke, everything is on fire everywhere. It doesn't matter that memory distorts; every image, every sound comes back out of smoke and the smell of things burning." But of course it does matter that memory distorts, or rather how it does so. The smell of the smoke, the light of the fires burning in ammunition dumps at Khe Sanh and in the Citadel at Hue, that is how we find our way back to a part of the past where the very terms on which this nation lives with itself were being redrawn.

Does Vatican Holocaust Report Go Far Enough?

To the Editor:

"The Vatican's Holocaust Report" (editorial, March 18) refers to "the silence of Pope Pius XII." Vatican Radio was among the first voices to tell the world about the Nazi segregation of Polish Jewry. The Pope's 1942 Christmas address pleaded for those who "only by reason of nationality or race are marked down for death."

In 1944 Pius cabled the head of Hungary's Government, appealing against deportation of Jews.

At times the Nazis suppressed the church's criticism. At other times they would "spin" it.

So, for instance, as reported in a

1942 issue of the American Jewish Committee's Contemporary Jewish Record, the Nazi "Propaganda Ministry [had] a pamphlet which condemned the Vatican's recent intervention on behalf of the persecuted Jews in France and alleged that the present 'pro-Jewish' Pope had produced a feeling of lack of confidence in him in the Catholic world." Pretty noisy silence! KEVIN M. DOYLE
South Nyack, N.Y., March 18, 1998

Blame Isn't Particular

To the Editor:

Although some have praised the Vatican's long-awaited statement ex-

pressing contrition for the Roman Catholic Church's official silence during the Holocaust, it is quite lame (front page, March 17). It does not come to grips with Pope Pius XII's role as the leader of Christendom during the Shoah.

In the Talmud and in the writings of Maimonides, true repentance can exist only when one acknowledges that a sin has been committed. The church has consistently avoided such an acknowledgment, choosing instead to blame individual Christians sinners. Three examples are the church's refusal to see the writings and sermons of early church fathers and later popes as the sources of anti-Semitism; the schema of Vatican II absolving "contemporary Jews" from the Crucifixion, and the current document refusing to criticize Pope Pius XII.

WALLACE GREEN
Fair Lawn, N.J., March 17, 1998

Pius Wasn't Silent

To the Editor:

Your March 18 editorial on the Vatican document on the Holocaust chastises Pope John Paul II for defending "the silence of Pope Pius XII during the Third Reich."

If Pius was "silent" during the Holocaust, why did this newspaper congratulate him on Dec. 25, 1941, for being "a lonely voice in the silence and darkness enveloping Europe this Christmas?"

And why did it editorialize the following year that Pius "is a lonely voice crying out of the silence of a continent?" WILLIAM A. DONOHUE
New York, March 18, 1998

The writer is president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights.

Infallible Popes

To the Editor:

It is futile for Jewish commentators to be critical of Pope John Paul II for defending Pope Pius XII for his actions during World War II (front page, March 17).

No matter what the evidence, the Roman Catholic Church believes that the Pope is infallible. The Vatican would never admit to any wrongdoing of a previous Pope.

Jewish commentators would have a better chance of getting Rome to apologize for destroying the Second Temple. DAVID BORAK
Rockville, Md., March 17, 1998

A Crafted Statement

To the Editor:

The Vatican has taken but a tiny step in meeting the criticism of Jewish people worldwide about the actions of the Roman Catholic Church during the Holocaust. The statement on the Shoah (front page, March 17) is carefully crafted so that no blame is assigned to the church itself but rather to its adherents or to improper understandings of the New Testament.

This distinction is so consistently maintained that the ineluctable conclusion is that the authors were conscious of their art and the result is intended.

Until the church can accept direct responsibility for the actions of its believers, there can be no easing of the antagonism that Jews feel toward the church for the suffering of Jews. (Rabbi) LEONARD S. BERKOWITZ
Sharon, Mass., March 17, 1998

Not Sexual Assault

To the Editor:

The "he said, she said" scenario between Kathleen E. Willey and President Clinton (news article, March 17) leaves me wondering if true sexual liberation for women is possible — even in the most liberal circles.

Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization for Women, and Patricia Schroeder, the former Representative, have both stated that Ms. Willey's account, if true, amounts to sexual assault. How so?

Why didn't Ms. Willey say no, loudly and purposefully? Although youth and inexperience can make a woman a target for a predatory, more mature male, what am I to think of a woman in her late 40's who says she thought the President's behavior "reckless," while allowing it to continue, if briefly? BARBARA A. MOSS
Philadelphia, March 17, 1998

Houston Historic Area

To the Editor:

"Historic Houston Neighborhood Falls to Renewal" (news article, March 15) is an insightful look at the battle between developers and low-income residents in Houston's oldest African-American neighborhood. However, not only Houston's history is at risk of destruction but also the history of the country.

Freedmen's Town is the largest remaining freed-slave settlement left in the United States. Although 40 blocks are officially registered as a national historic district, according to residents, the actual area covers closer to 80 blocks.

It is true that the overall renewal plan has put Mayor Lee P. Brown "in a difficult spot," but the responsibility for saving Freedmen's Town belongs not just to Houston's first African-American Mayor, but to all leaders and citizens across the country. EMILY T. NGHEM
Houston, March 18, 1998

TV Time for Candidates

To the Editor:

While Louis Kaitikoff (letter, March 17) is right in theory that broadcasters should give free air time to political candidates and that that would not be the same as requiring newspapers to provide free advertising, has he considered what putting the idea into practice might mean?

In every major city, television stations outnumber newspapers by as much as 4 to 1. If candidates had free television time on all of those channels, would they raise and spend less money?

It is much more likely that they would just use this freed-up money and spend it elsewhere — mailings and newspapers, for example. The only way to curb abuses in campaign financing is for Congress to pass laws that are strict, fair and enforced as to the amount of money that can be raised and spent. MEL LERNER
New York, March 17, 1998

U.S. Is Waffling on Religious Freedom in China

To the Editor:

Your coverage of the press conference by three clergymen who visited China and Tibet to discuss religious freedom issues was on point (news article, March 19).

That the three leaders failed to secure the release of a single imprisoned Tibetan monk, nun or other

Cameras Won't Help Many Abused Women

To the Editor:

I wonder to whom Marian Betancourt, the author of "What to Do When Love Turns Violent," is addressing her advice (Personal Health column, March 17).

Many battered women struggle on limited incomes. They are often isolated by language barriers and fear that police will disregard their cries for help. They do not have the money "to keep several throw-away cameras in the house to easily document the abuse," or a cell phone or a pendant alarm, as she suggests.

Many of these women are not emotionally close enough to their neighbors to reveal the painful elements of an abusive relationship. Telling an employer (if there is one) about an abusive relationship can cost a woman her job. LIZ LEVINE
Philadelphia, March 17, 1998

The writer is a social worker.

religious leader is understandable. That their hoped-for dialogue with Chinese officials looked more like a monologue was predictable. Yet what is really worrisome is that this well-intentioned effort to relieve the religious repression that afflicts millions of Tibetans and tens of millions of Chinese is giving cover to the Clinton Administration, which appears to be in flight from its commitments to champion basic religious freedoms for China and Tibet.

Earlier this month the Administration abandoned its efforts to secure a resolution in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva that condemns China's record on human rights and religious freedom, an incomprehensible step given recent indications that religious repression has worsened over the past year. BRUCEUNG K. TSERING
Director, International Campaign for Tibet
Washington, March 20, 1998

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Change of Hart

WASHINGTON
When you see Gary Hart on the street in Washington, he seems like a ghost. He's grayer, and he has a rueful look around the mouth and eyes that sets him apart in this capital of false bonhomie.

It seems odd that Mr. Hart, who got caught with one woman on the "Monkey Business," is still a pariah, while President Mookie Business is more popular than ever.

Mr. Hart was not offered political rehabilitation in the form of an appointment by President Clinton, who was probably loath to see cartoons about the pair chasing chicks together. And Mr. Hart has resisted the scuzzy redemption offered by the scandal food chain. He has not written a confessional book or become a media analyst on cable TV. He even skipped Time magazine's anniversary gala, knowing all the photographers would have been maneuvering to snap his picture with another guest, Donna Rice Hughes, now reconfigured as suburban mom and Christian activist against Internet porn.

Mr. Hart, who lives in Denver with his wife, Lee, does not talk about Mrs. Hughes, except to refer to her in passing as "the lady in question." (At least he doesn't say "That Woman.")

Given the mass shrug over the scandals clattering around Mr. Clinton, Mr. Hart must feel that he sinned too soon. Gary is Beta and Bill is VHS. He can never get back what he lost those five days in 1988 that he calls "brutal, worse than anything Clinton's gone through. I watched journalists become animals, literally."

Mr. Hart's work still brings him to Washington. I've talked to him several times, over lunch and on the phone, in the last few months. He finally agreed to talk publicly, to me and to John Kennedy Jr. for George magazine.

Mr. Hart (wistfully, perhaps) thinks America may be getting more Latin, more European. "The reason the American public is shutting this out is because it is growing up, finding out there is not a Santa Claus."

"When I got out of the race, I predicted this. I said if we as a country go down this path, we will destroy our leadership. It was a Washington journalism myth that people were demanding to know everything. There have to be some things between two people you don't want to know."

He claims the hyperscrutiny has produced a Congress of midgets. "I served with men like Hubert Humphrey and Ed Muskie and George Mc-

Govern and Jack Javits. If you put the names of those Senators against the names of today's, it's stunning."

He also thinks the press scrutiny will cause more politicians to divorce. If they are single and want to fool around, they will be seen as glamorous, like Senator Bob Kerrey.

It irritates him that every story about him suggests he invited the Press Furies by daring a New York Times reporter to follow him. "If anybody wants to put a tail on me, go ahead," he told E. J. Dionne. "They'd be very bored."

He correctly points out that The Miami Herald began its surveillance of him on Friday and his quote to The Times did not appear until Sunday.

"It wasn't Hart stupidly challenging the press with a taunt — that's non-

Gary on Bill

sense," he said. "E. J. asked about a rumor. I said, 'I don't have time to be doing the things this rumor suggests I am.' You're welcome to observe my behavior." But I didn't mean at my home. The image I had in mind wasn't skulking around in the shadows."

Mr. Hart believes politicians deserve more privacy, but does not think the press is wrong to cover Mr. Clinton's travails. "I'd just put it on page six or eight. We've lost proportionality. I was on Fox News talking about NATO expansion and they broke in to say Robert Bennett might not use Paula Jones's sexual history in a motion. That's breaking news?"

"If there is a pattern of behavior that affects an individual's ability to govern, it's important for the public to know. But most of these so-called sexual issues or private issues are between spouses and families. I resented, and my wife resented, people interposing themselves in our relationship and telling her how she ought to feel."

"It got so out of hand I was out of the race in five days. I did not have the protection of the White House and the immense staff. I made a mistake. I should not have been in the position I was in. But I did not think it was bad enough to have the chance denied me to lead the country."

Bob Herbert is on vacation.

Feminists and the Clinton Question

By Gloria Steinem

If all the sexual allegations now swirling around the White House turn out to be true, President Clinton may be a candidate for sex addiction therapy. But feminists will still have been right to resist pressure by the right wing and the media to call for his resignation or impeachment. The pressure came from another case of the double standard.

For one thing, if the President had behaved with comparable insensitivity toward environmentalists, and at the same time remained their most crucial champion and bulwark against an anti-environmental Congress, would they be expected to desert him? I don't think so. If President Clinton were as vital to preserving freedom of speech as he is to preserving reproductive freedom, would journalists be condemned as "inconsistent" for refusing to suggest he resign? Forget it.

For another, there was and is a difference between the accusations against Mr. Clinton and those against Bob Packwood and Clarence Thomas, between the experiences reported by Kathleen Willey and Anita Hill. Commentators might be putting overboard the common-sense guideline to sexual behavior that came out of the women's movement 30 years ago: no means no; yes means yes.

It's the basis of sexual harassment law. It also explains why the media's obsession with sex qua sex is offensive to some, titillating to many and

beside the point to almost everybody. Like most feminists, most Americans become concerned about sexual behavior when someone's will has been violated; that is, when "no" hasn't been accepted as an answer.

Let's look at what seem to be the most damaging allegations, those made by Kathleen Willey. Not only was she Mr. Clinton's political supporter, but she is also old enough to be Monica Lewinsky's mother, a better media spokeswoman for herself than

It's not harassment and we're not hypocrites.

Paula Jones, and a survivor of family tragedy, struggling to pay her dead husband's debts.

If any of the other women had tried to sell their stories to a celebrity tell-all book publisher, as Ms. Willey did, you might be even more skeptical about their motives. But with her, you think, "Well, she needs the money."

For the sake of argument here, I'm also believing all the women, at least until we know more. I noticed that CNN polls taken right after Ms. Willey's interview on "60 Minutes" showed that more Americans believed her than President Clinton.

Nonetheless, the President's approval ratings have remained high. Why? The truth is that even if the allegations are true, the President is not guilty of sexual harassment. He is accused of having made a gross, dumb and reckless pass at a supporter during a low point in her life. She pushed him away, she said, and it

never happened again. In other words, President Clinton took "no" for an answer.

In her original story, Paula Jones essentially said the same thing. She went to then-Governor Clinton's hotel room, where she said he asked her to perform oral sex and even dropped his trousers. She refused, and even she claims that he said something like, "Well, I don't want to make you do anything you don't want to do."

Her lawyers now allege that as a result of the incident Ms. Jones described, she was slighted in her job as a state clerical employee and even suffered long-lasting psychological damage. But there appears to be little evidence to support those accusations. As with the allegations in Ms. Willey's case, Mr. Clinton seems to have made a clumsy sexual pass, then accepted rejection.

This is very different from the cases of Clarence Thomas and Bob Packwood. According to Anita Hill and a number of Mr. Packwood's former employees, the offensive behavior was repeated for years, despite constant "no's." It also occurred in the regular workplace of these women, where it could not be avoided.

The women who worked for Mr. Packwood described a man who groped and lunged at them. Ms. Hill accused Clarence Thomas of regularly and graphically describing sexual practices and pornography. In both cases, the women said they had to go to work every day, never knowing what sexual humiliation would await them — just the kind of "hostile environment" that sexual harassment law was intended to reduce.

As reported, Monica Lewinsky's case illustrates the rest of the equation: "Yes means yes." Whatever it was, her relationship with President Clinton has never been called unwelcome, coerced or other than some-

thing she sought. The power imbalance between them increased the index of suspicion, but there is no evidence to suggest that Ms. Lewinsky's will was violated; quite the contrary. In fact, her subpoena in the Paula Jones case should have been quashed. Welcome sexual behavior is about as relevant to sexual harassment as borrowing a car is to stealing one.

The real violators of Ms. Lewinsky's will were Linda Tripp, who taped their talks, the F.B.I. agents who questioned her without a lawyer and Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor who seems intent on tailoring the former intern's testimony.

What if President Clinton lied under oath about some or all of the above? According to polls, many Americans assume he did. There seems to be sympathy for keeping private sexual behavior private. Perhaps we have a responsibility to make it O.K. for politicians to tell the truth — providing they are respectful of "no means no; yes means yes" — and still be able to enter high office, including the Presidency.

Until then, we will disqualify energy and talent the country needs — as we are doing right now.

Too Many Arms to Twist

By Jack F. Matlock Jr.

The Clinton Administration's frenetic diplomatic activity in recent weeks in and around Serbia's Kosovo region provides a fresh example of floundering in today's international environment. Senior Administration officials have made public threats that, if carried out, could embroil the United States in an ethnic war with slight if any relevance to American security.

In response to outrageous Serbian police attacks on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright announced on March 7 that the United States held Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, "personally responsible" for developments in Kosovo and reiterated that the United States "will not tolerate violence." Earlier, Robert Gelbard, the United States envoy, was even more pointed when he threatened, "the most dire consequences imaginable" to the Yugoslav Government.

By making implied threats to use military force — an idea that has no support among our NATO allies — and by blaming Mr. Milosevic for all the violence, the Administration is setting itself up for a Hobson's choice: if our threats do not deter him, we will either have to take action that can only worsen the situation or be seen as engaging in a bluff. Worse, our posturing can encourage those Albanians who use force and violence to assert their irredentist claims not only in rump Yugoslavia but also in Macedonia.

Certainly it is in the American interest to deter another Balkan war, as it is to discourage a brutal Serbian treatment of ethnic Albanian citizens. But the problem cannot be solved by bluster or military action, much less unilateral American strikes. A solution will require Mr. Milosevic to agree to

restore the autonomy to Kosovo that he took away in 1989 and to protect the rights of ethnic Albanians and Serbs alike.

By blaming Mr. Milosevic alone for the recent crackdown, and not giving adequate public attention to the violent actions by armed Albanian separatists that provoked it, we hardly encourage compromise. By not insisting publicly that the Kosovo Albanian leaders drop their demand for full independence and negotiate in good faith for autonomy within Yugoslavia, we seem to be insisting on something no Government in Belgrade can accept, with or without Mr. Milosevic.

Our NATO allies and, importantly, Russia have taken a more balanced approach, exerting pressure on each side to conduct negotiations on self-rule. But if armed Kosovo Albanians continue to attack Serbs in the region,

More overseas blundering, this time in Kosovo.

it is difficult to see how talks could lead to a settlement or how the Yugoslav Government could resist public pressure to retaliate.

If the American threat were an isolated tactical error, it could be excused as an uncharacteristic blunder easily fixed. Unfortunately, it fits a pattern of strategic misjudgment that has marked the Administration's foreign policy of late. The Administration has maneuvered itself very close to a lose-lose choice in dealing with Saddam Hussein, and has weakened American leverage and ties with allies by attempting a "dual containment" of Iraq and Iran.

The Administration has also reduced our ability to keep weapons of mass destruction away from terrorists and rogue regimes. By pursuing a mindless expansion of NATO, the United States has given Russia more cause to hold on to its nuclear arsenal

and resist an American role in preventing leaks of nuclear technology.

The collapse of the Soviet Union transformed the international environment. The United States no longer has a global rival that can threaten it by exploiting local conflicts. We, therefore, can safely insist that other countries accept the prime responsibility for keeping peace in their neighborhoods. The United States must be able to counter threats to regional balances of power when they occur. But over the long run, we can maintain our strength and influence only if we can do so with the support and participation of our friends.

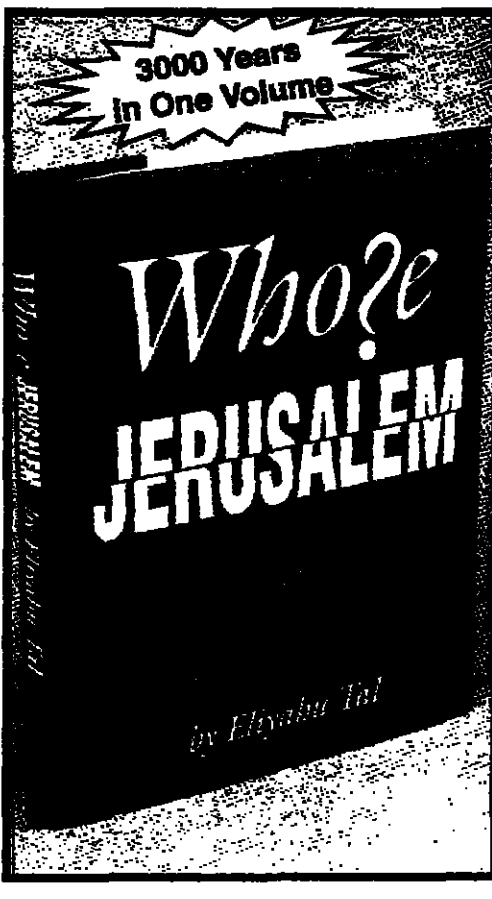
Europeans should be required to bear the prime responsibility for insuring peace in the Balkans. Islamic states, which along with Israel have the most to lose from Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, must be responsible for supporting effective means to contain Saddam Hussein. Israelis and Palestinians must understand that they bear the responsibility for settling their problems and that others will not intervene to save them from themselves. Tough love works.

Our assistance will often be essential. But we need to resist the temptation to jump into every unstable situation. As the Persian Gulf war showed, our military power is most effective when used in coalition with others. It also showed that even a spectacularly successful military victory cannot assure future peace. It takes an orderly regional neighborhood to do that, not an overzealous sheriff rushing in from another continent.

The United States is now strong enough, both economically and militarily, to commit blunders without sensing the immediate effects. The public seems oblivious to the dangers that lie ahead if the United States continues, without strategic design, to inject itself into one crisis after another, treating much of the world as its protectorate.

Uncle Sam still needs a big stick in this dangerous world. But the American people and our friends abroad will eventually whittle it to a toothpick unless he remembers Theodore Roosevelt's advice to speak softly and use it sparingly.

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THE ARTS

Playing Down the Rock-Star Image on Screen

By ANITA GATES

THE married British playwright is in love with a young actress and feels guilty. A boyishly handsome American movie star volunteers to seduce the playwright's wife, just to help out ("At least she'd get her confidence back," the American says).

The playwright takes him up on his offer. In fact, the wife is not the only character who ends up in bed with this brash, apparently irresistible young man, played by Jon Bon Jovi. It's easy to buy Mr. Bon Jovi in that role, in "The Leading Man," which opened in New York this weekend; after all, as the lead singer of the rock band that bears his name, he has been a sex symbol since the mid-1980's.

It may be harder to accept him as a small-town blue-collar working guy who dissolves into tears because his waitress girlfriend doesn't want to marry him, in "No Looking Back," the new Edward Burns film, which opens on Friday.

Yes, another rock star with millions of dollars and global adulation wants to make the transition to film star — or at least film actor. In the long line of such ambitious idols, from Elvis to Mark Wahlberg, there have been few long-term successes, even in recent years, as the transfer of celebrity from one arena to another has become a common occurrence.

"I'm no Daniel Day-Lewis or Sean Penn," says Mr. Bon Jovi, who turned 36 earlier this month. "I'm a studying actor. That's all I attest to."

Sitting at a small dining table in his sunny, hotel-suite-like Manhattan apartment near Lincoln Center, Mr. Bon Jovi manages to exude regular-guyiness and star quality at the same time. He's dressed in a blue denim shirt and black jeans, and his teeth gleam even brighter than his blue eyes. An album by Patti Scialfa, a New Jersey artist like Mr. Bon Jovi, is on the stereo. Mr. Bon Jovi talks about how his movie career began, with a supporting role in the 1995 romantic comedy "Moonlight and Valentino."

"I had no idea what I was doing," he says. "I kept apologizing to Anspaugh." — David Anspaugh, the film's director — "when he said: 'Let's do it again. Let's do it again.' I didn't know you do it eight times. I

had never acted with another person until I was on the set."

All he had done was study acting, something he swears he became interested in because he needed a hobby. When he wrote a song for the 1990 film "Young Guns II," he found himself envying the star, Emilio Estevez, for having the opportunity to learn to ride horses and to drive race cars for film roles. Mr. Bon Jovi made a cameo appearance in the picture and started taking acting lessons.

His performance in "Moonlight and Valentino," in which he played a house painter who has an affair with a young widow (Elizabeth Perkins), impressed some critics. The praise was not unanimous, however. Stephen Holden wrote in The New York Times, "The rock singer Jon Bon Jovi smiles too much, talks in a nervous monotone and exudes little charisma."

Despite the general critical acclaim, Mr. Bon Jovi's phone did not immediately start ringing. "Because I'd been hearing that people liked it," he recalls, referring to his performance in the movie, "you think the movie roles are going to fall in your lap then, that you're going to get 10 offers. I didn't."

At least not right away. "To tell you the truth, that movie didn't happen for me until a year or more after its release," he says. "The reviews were good, but it didn't mean anything because no one saw it in the theater. But when it got on cable, when the videos came out, that's when the phone calls started coming."

Mr. Bon Jovi is the first to acknowledge that even the biggest pop-music idols have had trouble transferring their star power from concert stage to big screen, "with the exception of a very few people, like Sinatra."

Frank Sinatra, of course, had a notable film career over four decades, appearing in musicals like "Guys and Dolls" and dramas like "The Man With the Golden Arm" and "The Manchurian Candidate." He won an Oscar for his role in "From Here to Eternity."

Elvis Presley might have done better, Mr. Bon Jovi says, if his manager, Col. Tom Parker, who died last year, had not put Elvis in a string of trivial movies and had not turned down the 1976 version of "A Star Is Born," just because Elvis would



Jon Bon Jovi and Thandie Newton in "The Leading Man." The rock star originally tried acting as a hobby.

have had second billing to Barbra Streisand.

And Mr. Bon Jovi is a fan of David Bowie's film efforts. "I think David is a very good actor," he says. "He just chose some roles that weren't the best roles, the most successful roles." Mr. Bowie's characters have included a space alien with removable eyes in "The Man Who Fell to Earth" (1976) and Andy Warhol on the verge of a nervous breakdown in "Basquiat" (1996).

MR. BON JOVI'S roles so far are more conventional. He decided with his second film, "The Leading Man," to take a bigger role in a smaller picture, as he puts it, "to get more time in front of a camera."

Spin magazine has already pronounced him a success in "The Leading Man," concluding that the film sometimes "loses its way, but Bon Jovi the movie actor — as opposed to Bon Jovi the pop star — never does." Entertainment Weekly added its own

accolade, calling Mr. Bon Jovi "the rare celebrity musician who knows how to underplay" rather than turning "the tiniest moments into extravagant gestures of self-regard."

John Duigan, the film's director, didn't take his casting director's suggestion of Mr. Bon Jovi for the role very seriously at first but changed his mind after meeting with the actor. So did the largely British cast, which includes Patricia Hodge, Diana Quick, Thandie Newton and Barry Humphries, he says.

"There was a real curiosity on their part as to why we had chosen him," says Mr. Duigan, recalling the cast's first "table reading" of the script together. "I remember watching them afterward. There were subtle nods of agreement."

"Every now and again, you do find performers who have a very powerful stage presence that translates to screen," Mr. Duigan continues. "And his instincts are very good."

But how much charisma do you get to exude when you're playing the dull, steady guy, as he does in "No

Looking Back," directed by and starring Mr. Burns? "Eddie's character is the one you'd expect me to play — you know, the seducer," Mr. Bon Jovi says.

His character, the hometown boyfriend that Lauren Holly's character is tiring of, is interested in stability, not glamour. "Here's a guy whose values and morals are so high that he wasn't aspiring to cross the bridge into Manhattan," Mr. Bon Jovi says. "All he wanted in his life was a woman who loved him."

The same might be said of Mr. Bon Jovi, whose wife of almost nine years, Dorothea, was his high school sweetheart in Sayreville, N.J. They and their children — Stephanie, 4, and Jesse James, 3 — spend most of their time at their house in Rumson, N.J. And he talks at length about the value of personal life over wealth and public fame.

"I've been rich and famous for 12 or 13 years," he says. "I can tell you firsthand, this is not what it's about." Bon Jovi's first album was released in 1984; the band's first major hit,

"Slippery When Wet," came two years later.

But Mr. Burns, the independent filmmaker who made "The Brothers McMullen" three years ago, hesitated to cast Mr. Bon Jovi in the role. "The character is such a working-class Joe," he says, "I thought how audiences might react to seeing a rock star in that role. But Jon's acting coach, Harold Guskin, had been telling me for years what a good actor Jon was. And he just sort of slipped into the character's skin."

"Unlike a lot of rock stars who've tried to act, it's not an affected performance," says Mr. Burns. "Jon doesn't feel the need to try and act. It's very still and internal."

If that ability should lead to real success in films, it will mean a different kind of fame, as Mr. Bon Jovi acknowledges. "Movie stars are more famous than rock-and-roll stars," he says. "If you're not a rock-and-roll fan that likes my little niche of music, chances are you're not going to hear or see it. But in a movie, it's in the movie theater and it's on television, and the whole world watches television."

How much more adulation can a person take? Rock stars perform to concert halls and stadiums filled with screaming fans who shudder with excitement at the slightest provocation. Mr. Bon Jovi certainly continues to have that effect. At a solo performance at the Supper Club in Manhattan last year, the screaming began when he was spotted by some audience members as he approached the stage. Hands reached out toward him. A small spotlight came on. He lifted his arm, and the screaming erupted anew.

"I'm not an applause junkie," says Mr. Bon Jovi. "None of that ever appealed to me."

A skeptic suggests that being on stage with that kind of reaction must be quite a thrill. "When you're up there, you wouldn't believe the things that you're thinking," he answers. "Sometimes the only thing that you hear is your guitar and your voice."

As for those hobbies Mr. Bon Jovi hoped to develop as he prepared for film roles, it hasn't worked out quite that way. So far he has played an actor, a house painter, a blue-collar worker and in an unreleased film ("Little City") and a bartender. Those riding lessons "will have to wait," he says.

Clapton is Seeking Solace

By JON PARELES

SONGWRITERS on their way up write about what they want: attention, romance, justice, satisfaction. And then, if they stay around long enough, they end up writing about all that they've lost. Baby boomers' rock icons, who were born during World War II, are now reaching their mid-50's. And as they do, they are turning to reflections and elegies, facing others' mortality and their own.

They tend to reach back to the music they grew up on, finding mature lessons in the stoic clarity of the blues, country and gospel. Last year, Bob Dylan unveiled his first set of new songs since 1990 on the haggard, incoherent "Time Out of Mind." Now Eric Clapton, who just turned 53, has released "Pilgrim" (Duck Reprise), his first album of new material since "Journeyman" in 1989. It is filled with songs about grief, loneliness and a search for faith. "How do I choose and where do I draw the line between truth and necessary pain?" he sings in the title song.

The lute he draws in between what he says and how he delivers it. While the words on "Pilgrim" testify to desolation, the music insists on comfort above all. Clapton is no longer the rashly impassioned singer whose voice crested and broke as he begged for love in the original "Layla"; he's a grown-up who plans every crescendo. On "Pilgrim," that deliberation yields a handful of songs that find a penitential purity within sadness.

There are also a few unctuous tear-jerkers and assorted near-misses. Most of the arrangements on "Pilgrim," produced by Clapton and the keyboardist Simon Climie, are suave, midtempo backdrops that sometimes verge on easy listening. Clapton hardly raises his voice, and he rarely lets his guitar solos lash out; when he does in "One Chance," a slow soul blues that's half accusation and half recrimination, the song nearly jumps off the album. But when Clapton sings, in "Pilgrim," about feeling "completely out of control," his voice is a perfectly modulated, hushed falsetto that lands precisely on each syncopated note. Even in sorrow, he is muted and decorous, anything but exhibitionistic.

Clapton has mourned in public for his son, Conor, who died in 1991 after falling out of a window. In the years that followed, Clapton kept new material to himself; he released live albums, returned to blues with "From the Cradle," and sang the Babyface hit "Change the World." The only song of his own that he released in the 1990's was "Tears in



Eric Clapton finds lessons in the clarity of blues and country.

Heaven," a pained, hymnlike ballad that found solace in the prospect of a reunion after death.

"Pilgrim" is an extension of "Tears in Heaven," with a few side trips into the blues. In song after song, the singer's tears flow like rain or rush like rivers. The album's first single, "My Father's Eyes," has the same pace and feeling as "Tears in Heaven," melded with Sheryl Crow's "Leaving Las Vegas" and Freddy Johnston's "Evie's Tears." In the song's lyrics, Clapton places himself between searching for his father and teaching his son, suddenly moaning, "How could I lose him?" Another song, "Circus," grows more sentimental as Clapton sings about bringing toys to "his little man," then remembers, "the circus left town."

But "Pilgrim" also faces other kinds of loss, with songs about women who have strayed or disappeared and about the singer's own ebbing life. In a few songs, Clapton rails at an absent lover, but for most of the album he and Climie are after something else: the calm of absolute resignation, with full knowledge of misery past and present. They find it in a conspiratorial, jazz-chorus version of St. Louis Jimmy's "Going Down Slow," and in "Fall Like Rain," which has the bluegrass bounce of a Paul Simon song and a vocal that almost yodels, forlorn but inscrutable.

Clapton has never had a signature sound beyond his own voice and guitar. In the 1970's, he was swayed by the Southern rock of Duane Allman, the tamped-down blues of J.J. Cale and the reggae of Bob Marley. In the

1980's he favored the reverberant beat of Phil Collins. More recently he has been picking up ideas from Babyface, who makes tendrils of acoustic guitar curl around a kindly voice. Clapton and Climie use the Babyface approach for "My Father's Eyes" and for "Needs His Woman," a gentle warning that a jilted man won't stay single long.

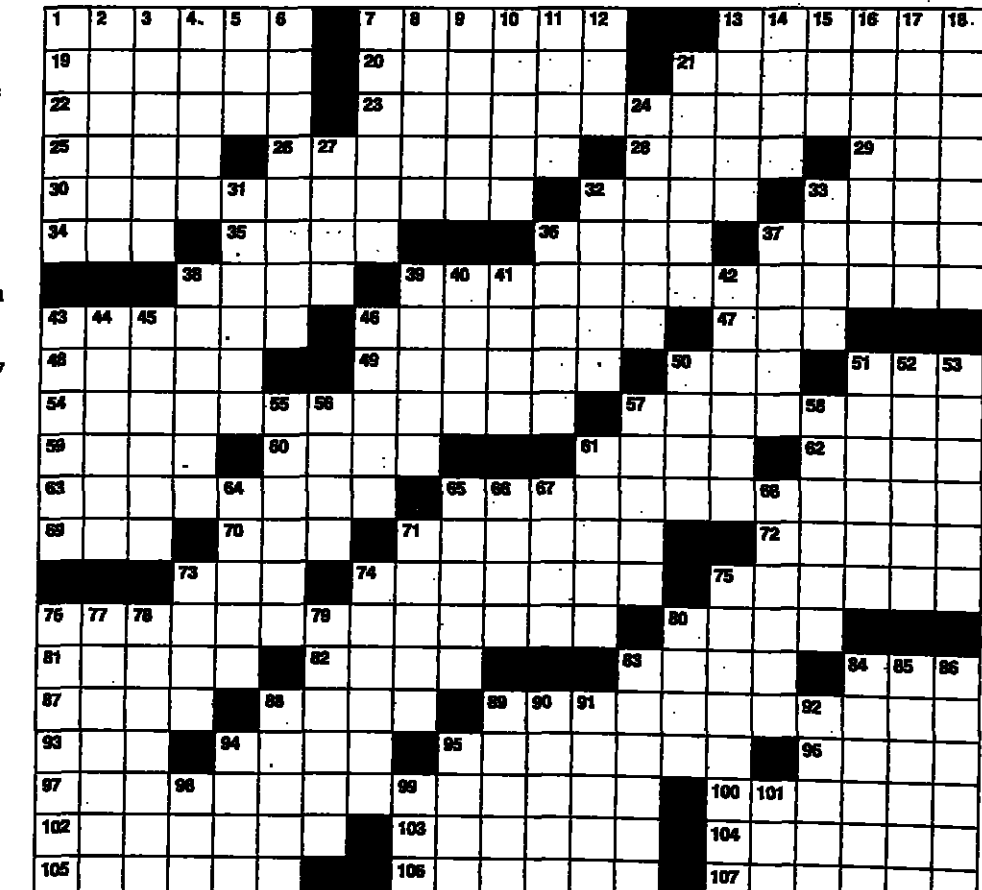
Elsewhere, Climie pushes the arrangements in two disparate directions. He harks back to Willie Mitchell's production for Al Green in the 1970's with unswerving drums and hovering string sections. But he also adds frosty electronic undertones: drum programs instead of drums and keyboards that huff like slow artificial respiration. "Sick and Tired" sets up syncopated cymbals to destabilize a straightforward blues; another programmed groove, "She's Gone," just gets cluttered. (Apparently Climie also encouraged Clapton to sing "dub" instead of "the.") The more somber "Pilgrim" and "Inside of Me," both written by Clapton and Climie, are laced with foreboding electronics, stranding Clapton's troubled voice in a sonic wasteland.

Music has always offered a way to transfigure despair: through all-out catharsis or dignified lament, through redemptive optimism or matter-of-fact fatalism. With "Pilgrim," Clapton set out to confront loss, but somewhere in the process he flinched. Too often, his constraint sounds less like someone holding back ungovernable emotions than like a professional determined to keep things tidy. □

ANAGRAMMATIC DISCLOSURES

BY EMILY COX AND HENRY RATHVON / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- Purloin a sirloin?
 - Not for sure
 - Hangers around the house
 - Necessitate
 - de Balzac
 - Something too easily broken
 - Overdo the diet
 - Director Martin Scorsese's anagrammatic claim
 - Where a pupil sits
 - Recess for a joint
 - Emmy-winning Daly
 - Rotten egg
 - Jockey Eddie Arcaro's anagrammatic motto
 - Hors d'oeuvre cheese
 - Cartoon skunk Le Pew
 - Headache figs
 - Queen's servants
 - King of comedy
 - Hole-making bug
 - Fine subjects
 - Ulysses S. Grant's anagrammatic advice regarding hangovers
 - Protectors from splats
 - Cried "Yee-haw!"
 - Poetic preposition
 - A point in Mexico
 - Song-and-dance shows
 - Spree
 - Sternward
 - Artist Piet Mondrian's anagrammatic epigram
 - Capitalist?
 - Congress-thwarting move
 - Author — Mae Brown
 - Jackknife, e.g.
 - Farm prefix
 - Toothless
 - Kevin Costner's anagrammatic lament about his videos
 - What Leary tripped on
 - Wheel track
 - Sunshine in Québec
 - Babe Ruth, on the Yankees
 - Intest
 - Without rocks
 - Sneaker bottoms
 - Carmen Miranda's anagrammatic ballroom tip
 - What an ostiary guards
 - Oxlike antelope
 - Footless critter
 - Stuff in a muffin
 - Sluggish stat
 - Greet with old-fashioned etiquette
 - Bath's country



- DOWN**
- Have a hearth
 - Virgin
 - Domestic flights
 - Ankles
 - Ulmann of moviedom
 - Classic work of Euclid
 - Trilled calls
 - Plantain lily
 - Bit of clowning
 - Whence the word "troll"
 - Canadian prairie tribe
 - Aye-aye
 - Mary's lecturer

- Setting for "Don Pasquale"
- Org. with a much-quoted journal
- Lobster part
- Coop filer
- Rustic sow-and-sows?
- Like a Nosy Parker
- Maroon
- Mudder fodder
- Shade
- B.B.'s bag
- Prepare to be shot
- Quaker in the woods
- Carrier in a canal
- Author's order
- Bara the "vamp"
- Gad about
- "It's — move"
- Get a rise out of?
- Whine pathetically
- Urban transports
- Emulated Demosthenes
- Composed
- Rock's Bon —
- Silly goat
- Like fast marches
- Tots' wheels, for short
- Psychic shock
- Oven —
- School door sign
- Brit's accented reply
- Rational faith in God
- Put to the proof

- Without letup
- "Pure —" (1994 jazz album)
- Drive out of one's lane
- Buff, so to speak
- Grafting bud
- Teen-y problem
- Tariff
- Mock
- Foodstuff
- How some country stars sing
- Product of erosion
- Triad abroad
- Runs colorfully
- Name in a Beach Boys title
- In old show biz, he was no dummy
- Forward line players, in soccer
- Set straight
- Singer Cara
- Cupid's stock
- Start
- Like whose eyes, in a Ben Jonson verse?
- Of planes and flying
- Say it's so
- Alternate: Abbr.
- Mythical monster
- Abbr. on a boombox

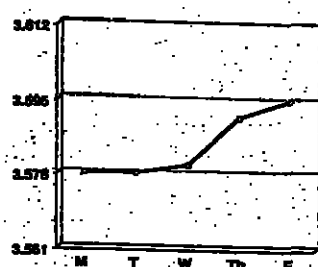
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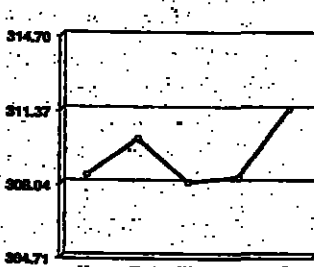
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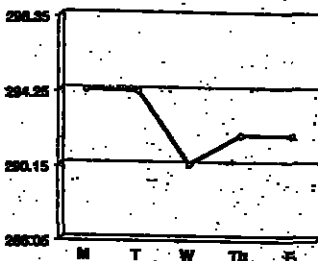


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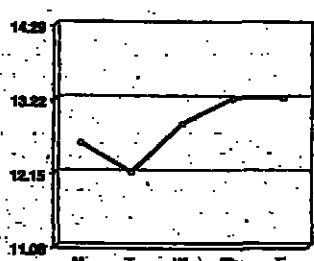
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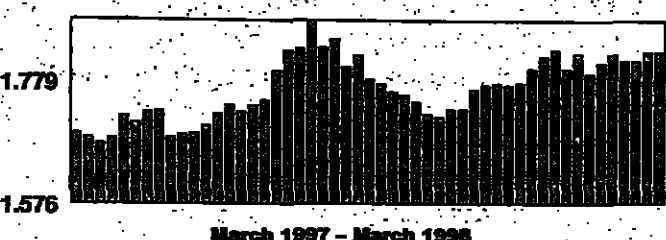


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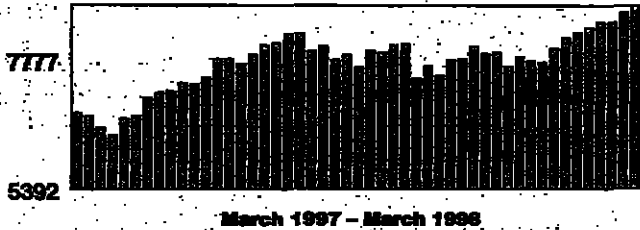
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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Net income surges 46% at Israel Chemicals

Israel Chemicals yesterday reported that net income in 1997 rose by 46 percent to \$101.4 million from \$69.5m. in 1996. Sales rose a moderate 3% to \$1.69 billion from \$1.64b. a year earlier. Despite the increase, net profits decreased in the fourth quarter to \$12.2m. from \$12.6m. Sales fell in the last quarter of 1997 to \$392.1m. compared with \$394.9m. in the same period in 1996. Israel Chemicals attributed the decline to a decrease in fertilizer prices in Europe and the decline of European currencies against the dollar. Asian currency turmoil was said to have had no impact on the firm's profits. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

Investment in transportation infrastructure down 12% in '97

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Investment in transportation infrastructure was down 12 percent in 1997, even though such investment is seen as a key factor in encouraging growth and fighting unemployment, the Bank of Israel said yesterday.

When comparing its relative portion of GDP, transport infra-

structure investments fell by 14% over the previous year.

The figures are included in the Bank of Israel's 1997 report, which will be presented to the government at the end of the month.

The report indicates that investments in roads dropped 9% last year, while investment in airports decreased 14%, and investment in

sea ports dropped 24%. The central bank also warned that investments would not rise in 1998.

According to the report, the lack of investment is very worrying since surveys, conducted in Israel and abroad, indicate that infrastructure expenditure leads to an acceleration in growth.

In addition to helping create more jobs, such expenditure also

helps fight unemployment by making it easier for unemployed people to commute to jobs.

Additionally, the report shows that road density rose sharply during the last several years. The density, which is calculated by dividing the number of kilometers driven by cars by the length of roads, indicates that density here is two-and-a-half-times higher than in

Western European countries.

The report says the average annual investment in roads amounted to only 0.6% of GDP during the years 1965-1990, as compared to 1% of GDP invested in European lands.

The central bank concludes that if Israel wants to close this gap, it would have to invest about 3% of GDP during the next five years.



Hard times in China

Customers look over second-hand shoes yesterday at a Beijing open-air market aimed at low-income families. A cabinet think tank said China must invest heavily this year to stimulate its economy in the face of flagging consumption and exports. (Reuters)

Microsoft under scrutiny of Antitrust Authority

By NINA GILBERT

The Antitrust Authority has not yet concluded its examination into whether Microsoft should be declared a monopoly due to its share of the market, according to a governmental source.

The source denied a report that the authority suspended the review due to pressure from the Redmond, Washington-based software giant. Authority director David Tadmor sent a letter several months ago to Microsoft, which has offices in Herzliya, and informed it that the authority was considering declaring it a monopoly. The check was launched due to complaints regarding Microsoft's activities here. In response, Microsoft sent a legal representative from the US to meet with Tadmor. Mark Murray, Microsoft's corporate public

relations manager in Redmond, said that if the company were to be declared a monopoly due to its success here, it would comply with Israeli rules.

"As far as we know, the Israeli government is not alleging that Microsoft has done anything inappropriate. In Israel, there are certain rules that apply to companies with more than a 50% market share in a defined product," he said.

"The rules that apply in Israeli law are very similar to European rules, and we are already complying with those kind of European rules."

He said Microsoft had provided the information requested by Tadmor, who could regulate Microsoft's activities here if it is declared a monopoly.

However, the authority is not likely to take any action since the root of the problem is in the US, according to the source.

In Israel, Microsoft is the only foreign company that translates its software into Hebrew. Microsoft's only R&D center outside the US is located at Haifa's Matam advanced technology park.

Microsoft has been facing mounting scrutiny in the US, Europe, and Asia over alleged unfair business practices. Earlier this month, Microsoft chairman Bill Gates appeared before a hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee on competition in the software industry.

Many of the allegations relate to Microsoft's attempt to require the installation of its Internet Explorer program. Under an agreement reached with the US Department of Justice, Microsoft is to offer a version of Windows 95 without a browser, so computer makers will have the option of installing a competing browser or no browser at all.

US may put Israel on list of copyright breachers

The US administration is considering putting Israel on a stricter list of countries that breach copyright, deputy US ambassador to Israel Richard Roth said yesterday.

In a lecture he gave at the Globes-Israel-US Science and Technology Commission conference on technology management strategy in international markets, Roth said that in April 1997, Israel was put on a list of countries that are being monitored, because of the many instances of unlicensed copying of computer programs and other items, and dismal enforcement of protection for intellectual property.

"We hoped that putting her on this list would encourage Israel's government to introduce new legislation against plagiarism and strengthen enforcement in this area, but, unfortunately, this hasn't happened," said Roth.

"Israel, which encourages high-tech industry, should recognize her responsibility to protect intellectual property," he said. "The R&D community and business people in Israel should press the government to remedy the situation."

Roth stressed that the issue of copyright protection was an important element in economic relations between Israel and the US. (Globes)

Local firms at S. America's largest arms exposition

By ARNIE O'SULLIVAN

Fifteen defense firms are participating in the FIDAE, the International Air and Space Fair which opens in Santiago, Chile today.

It is the largest and most important exposition of its kind in South America, where the defense industries already do a bustling business.

Among the firms that are showing off their wares are the nation's top electronic and heavy weapons producers, including Rafael, IMI, Tadiran, El-Op, Elbit, Elira Electronics, Reshet Technologies, IAI and Raintex Industries.

"These fairs aren't meant for signing deals," said Maj.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Ben Hanan, director of SIBAT, the Defense Ministry department that promotes exports.

"But these fairs let us show off our products and meet people in an unprecedented way," Hanan said recently. He noted that usually he had to plan for months ahead to meet any of his counterparts abroad.

"Here we'll be able to do it very easily and in a comfortable setting too," he said. Defense officials said they are aiming for joint ventures in research and development.

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Tadmor puts limitations on Tevel-CableTel deal

By NINA GILBERT

Antitrust Authority director David Tadmor has imposed limitations on a deal to sell 100% of Gvamin and 32% of Monitin publishing to Tevel from CableTel of Canada, since it would give the Recanat family shares in two long-distance telephone companies, Barak and Golden Lines, and Internet companies, NetVision and

ISDNet.

In a decision published Thursday, Tadmor said that if the deal is concluded, the Monitin shares would have to be placed in the hands of a trustee until December 31, 1998, after which the trustee would seek a buyer if the shares have not already been sold. During this period, the trustee would manage the shares as though he owned them, Tadmor ruled.

According to Tadmor's orders, there are to be no instructions given to the trustee from Tevel or

any owners of Tevel or any entity with an interest in Tevel, in the management of the Monitin shares. Information regarding Monitin's financial activities will be transferred to Tevel. However, any information relating to Golden Lines must be omitted.

If the trustee does not find a buyer by June 30, 1999, Tadmor can ask a court to order a sale.

Tevel, the cable operator in the Tel Aviv area, obtained an option to buy 100% of the Gvamin cable television company, which oper-

ates in the Rishon LeZion and Haifa Bay areas, and 32% of Monitin, which publishes Globes, from CableTel, for an estimated \$280 million.

The Recanat family owns 48% of Tevel through Discount Investments and PZC and control Clal, which owns 44% of Barak. Monitin, which publishes Globes, owns 22% of Golden Lines and 15% of ISDNet.

A spokesman for Discount Investments said yesterday that they could not comment while negotiations are still under way.



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Purchase Section

Tender No. 4/98 - For the regular supply of steel pipes for conducting water

- Mekorot hereby invites quotations for the regular supply of steel pipes for conducting water, in accordance with the needs of the Company's departments and at their discretion, and in accordance with specific orders to be issued separately as required, and a delivery schedule to be determined in the above-mentioned orders, at the sole discretion of the Company. Within the scope of the framework contract for 1998, Mekorot reserves the right to extend the agreement annually for an additional two years at its discretion.
- The quantities specified in the tender documents are an estimate only, based on a forecast, and in no way whatsoever obligate the Company, nor does the Company, within the scope of the contract, undertake to utilize all the quantities it will need, or any part thereof, during the period of the contract. The supplier must undertake to keep a stock of pipes in Israel, according to Mekorot's requirements.
- The bid will include pipes with an internal lining of concrete and an external coating of extruded polyethylene and pipes with an internal lining of cement and an external envelope of dense concrete, all in accordance with the requirements of the Mekorot specifications as defined in the tender documents.
- The prices quoted shall be fixed for a period of at least seven months from the date of submission of the bid. All changes in the prices must have Mekorot's written agreement. Any price adjustment, upward or downward, will be examined in relation to fluctuations in the cost of the relevant steel on the international market and in the relevant index in Israel. The prices should be quoted in NIS at the supplier's warehouse in Israel (including all taxes except VAT). The terms of payment will be set by Mekorot.
- The tender documents and details of the requirements can be purchased for NIS 2,500 (non-refundable), including VAT, at the offices of Mekorot, 9 Lincoln St., Tel Aviv, Purchasing Department, 2nd floor, room 214, Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. The tender documents can be perused prior to purchase.
- The bid must be accompanied by a bank guarantee in the amount of NIS 500,000, linked to the consumer price index, as security for the fulfillment of the tender provisions. The guarantee shall be unconditional and duly stamped and valid for a period of 90 days from the date of submission of the bid. The successful bidder must submit a bank guarantee to Mekorot for the entire period of the agreement to ensure fulfillment of the tender terms.
- The bid, with the bank guarantee, is to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the tender number and placed in the tender's box at the Mekorot offices at the above address by 12 noon on May 3, 1998. Please apply to Mr. Eli Melamed at 03-623-0576 for further details.
- No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any other bid and the right is reserved to accept only a part of a bid or to split the orders among the different participants. The company also reserves the right to negotiate with the parties as permitted by law.
- The submission of all valid certificates required by the Public Bodies Transactions Law (Enforcement of Ledger Keeping and Payment of Tax Debts) 1976 is a condition for participating in the tender.

Meir Kazam
Chairman, Tender Committee

PRIME 777

Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 19.3.98
Purchase Price: 118.73
Redemption Price: 118.09



TARGET 777

Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 19.3.98
Purchase Price: 134.00
Redemption Price: 132.97



O'Sullivan takes cross-country double

MARRAKECH (Reuters) - Sonia O'Sullivan strode irresistibly to the first world cross-country championships double yesterday by winning her second title in less than 24 hours.

The former world 5,000 meters champion again judged her finishing surge to perfection to add the women's 4km title to the 8km gold medal she won on Saturday's opening day, and finish the weekend \$80,000 better off.

Short course races for both men and women have been introduced to the championships for the first time this year.

In the final race of the inaugural two-day event, Paul Tergat out-sprinted fellow-Kenyan Paul Koech to win the men's 12km title for the fourth consecutive time. Only his compatriot John Nguni, with five titles, has a superior record.

As vultures circled slowly overhead and camels on the inside of the course watched with haughty disdain, O'Sullivan nipped in comfortably behind the early pace makers Keturah Dula of Ethiopia and Moroccan Zohra Ouaziz.

She then moved up to the leaders' shoulders at the halfway stage on another hot day but one in which the runners were shielded from the worst of the sun by light cloud which obscured the Atlas mountains in the background.

Over the final lap, O'Sullivan eased into the lead and there was never the slightest chance she would be caught as she won going away in 12 minutes 20 seconds. Ouaziz finished second 14 seconds further back but led the Moroccan women to a popular victory in the team event.

Tergat relished the hard, fast conditions but not the hot Moroccan spring weather.

"It was very hard to breathe, very hot indeed," he said. "It was very dry and I have got a sore throat." The world 10,000 meters record holder's efforts helped Kenya to the men's 12km team title for the 13th year in a row, although there was consolation for the Ethiopians who won the men's junior title after finishing second to Kenya since 1987.

Kenya headed the medals table with five golds, followed by Ethiopia with four. O'Sullivan's two golds pushed Ireland into third place.

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Taylor reflects on dismal end to Australia's winning run

SYDNEY (AP) - Australia went to the subcontinent with nine straight series wins and the unofficial status of the world's best cricket team.

India's commanding victory in Calcutta on Saturday stripped captain Mark Taylor of the first part of the equation, and cast doubt on the second.

Taylor was yesterday still trying to digest Australia's fourth-worst loss in 580 Tests over 121 years - and the heaviest defeat since 1960.

India's massive innings and 219 run victory in the second Test following an easy win in the first match left the home side with an unbeatable 2-0 lead and had Taylor stumped.

"We have to rethink our strategy," Taylor told reporters yesterday. "Frankly, we don't have a clue as to how to stop the Indians." Australia's next assignment is a series against Pakistan in October, one considered even tougher than the current tour by the Australian team.

"It was undoubtedly the worst loss I've experienced as captain," Taylor said of the Calcutta collapse.

Taylor said tiredness from a heavy season was a factor but he found Australia's poor batting displays in both Tests hard to fathom.

"I think it's too early to be singling out individuals and saying 'This bloke should never play again or he has to be dropped,'" Taylor said.

"I think a tiredness is drifting into our cricket." Aside from the batting woes and the pre-tour loss of Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie through injury, Australia's biggest problem was the form of Shane Warne.

Warne's 0-147 from 42 overs in Calcutta was the worst figures of his career and he looked nothing like a bowler who has dominated world cricket for five years and taken 308 Test wickets.

"He is still bowling well but he is not bowling at his best and that sums up how we are playing as well," Taylor said.

Moody, Julian run riot in Sheffield Shield final

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Western Australia took a stranglehold on the Sheffield Shield final yesterday when captain Tom Moody and fast bowler Brendon Julian both scored centuries against Tasmania.

The home side amassed a commanding 571 in reply to Tasmania's first innings 285 before reducing the visitors to 92 for three at close of play on day three at Perth's WACA Ground.

With two days left, Western Australia need only avoid defeat to lift the Shield as reward for finishing in first place on the table ahead of Tasmania at the end of the season.

Tasmania need to score another 194 runs just to make Western Australia bat again and face a daunting task to claim the victory they need.

Moody, playing in his sixth Shield final, scored 125 after surviving two dropped chances during his innings.

It was the veteran all-rounder's fourth century in 10 innings in a

Shield final, lifting his average to 93 in the showpiece fixture.

Julian recorded the fastest century in Shield history, taking only 76 balls on his way to a rapid 124 that included nine fours and two sixes.

Opener Ryan Campbell provided the platform for their assault with a century on Saturday.

Tasmania No. 3 Michael DiVenuto provided the visitors with at least a faint hope of reversing their fortunes by remaining 59 not out at the close yesterday.

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It was the veteran all-rounder's fourth century in 10 innings in a

Johansson voices support for German bid

BONN (Reuters) - UEFA president Lennart Johansson was quoted as saying that he would support Germany if their bid to host the 2006 World Cup finals was to clash with the England one.

"If we were to have a confrontation between the two bids, I would stick to the gentleman's agreement that we reached within the UEFA executive under which England would get the European championship and Germany's bid for the 2006 World Cup finals would be supported (by UEFA)," Johansson said in an interview with German magazine Der Spiegel released ahead of its publication today.

"The silly thing in all this is that we might have a costly competition between the two bids," he added. "It would have been preferable to spend that money on football proper."

German soccer officials are backing Sweden's Johansson to take over from his old rival Joao Havelange at the top of world governing body FIFA later this year. Johansson, widely viewed in the German media as a supporter of the German bid, is the only candidate for

the FIFA presidency so far.

But FIFA general-secretary Sepp Blatter, a close ally of Havelange, may also throw his hat into the ring. That could put important backing for the German bid in doubt.

"Franz Beckenbauer, the German bid's 'ambassador,'" said on Thursday he had "great doubts" about whether his country would get the chance to host the 2006 World Cup.

The World Cup-winning captain and coach said that if the votes of delegates from European governing body UEFA on the committee were split between Germany and England, another candidate was likely to get the nod.

"You need the concentrated power of UEFA, the combined votes from UEFA, to have a chance," Beckenbauer said. "If two people fight, it's usually a third party who has the last laugh."

UEFA's 24-member executive committee will decide in 2000 who will host the tournament. Germany, England and South Africa have already launched bids and several other countries are also considering applying.

Courier, Martin, Reneberg join Agassi for Davis Cup

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. (Reuters) - US Davis Cup captain Tom Gullikson on Saturday named Jim Courier, Todd Martin and Richey Reneberg to join Andre Agassi for next month's first-round tie against Russia.

Agassi was already named several weeks ago to the team that will compete April 3-5, at Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Agassi and Courier are slated to play the singles with Martin and Reneberg teaming for the doubles.

The US have lost their last five doubles points in Davis Cup action.

Playing for the Russians will be former French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Alexander Volkov, Andrei Olhovskiy and Marat Safin.

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Next year, the Final Four

UConn continues string of near misses

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Fans of Connecticut basketball have been wondering for years what it would take to end the Huskies' frustrating run of near-misses in the NCAA tournament.

The answer, at least according to the players, may be Saturday night's 75-64 loss to North Carolina in the East Region championship game (see NCAA roundup, Page 24).

It marked an end to Connecticut's 20th appearance in the NCAA tournament, a ledger that includes zero appearances in the Final Four.

Three times before, the Huskies came within one victory of making it to the Final Four, but those were all with teams dominated by upperclassmen. Connecticut's starting lineup Saturday featured one freshman, three sophomores and a junior.

"This just gives you that burning desire. Nobody wants to feel this bad ever again," said sophomore Richard Hamilton. "It's just how bad we want it. I think everybody will work hard."

Coach Jim Calhoun said he hoped his players would remember the bitter feeling of Saturday night's loss, especially on some hot days this summer when they might be lacking motivation to lift weights or practice shooting.

But from the way Hamilton and his teammates were talking in the locker room afterwards, Calhoun can save his breath and spare them any emotional pep talks about using the loss as an inspiration.

"This is going to inspire us to work even harder this summer and get better and get to the Final Four," said freshman point guard Khalid El-Amin, who led the Huskies with 24 points on 10-for-16 shooting. "This is going to prepare us for next year, and I think that's good, but at the same time it hurts right now because we worked so hard to get to where we're at, and we wanted to win."

The Huskies cut their deficit to 59-58 with 5:37 left before North Carolina answered with a 14-2 run. Connecticut made just three field-goal attempts over the final 5½ minutes, and two of those were uncontested layups in the last 27 seconds after the outcome had been decided.

"Man, just the way it ended," Hamilton said, shaking his head. "We were right there, right there. But they made some big plays when they had to. We can learn from that," El-Amin agreed.

"I guess we showed our age," he said.

"I think we've got all the pieces of the puzzle. All the pieces are there," Hamilton said. "This game could have easily been turned around. They could have been missing shots and we could have been on the other side."

One of the Huskies' main pieces is Hamilton, who has been the subject of speculation about whether this might have been his last season at Connecticut. He tried to put to rest any talk about him possibly turning pro, saying he didn't even consider it an issue.

"I love college basketball," he said. "It's the opportunity of a lifetime."

Dafoe outduels Hasek in Bruins win

BUFFALO (AP) — Byron Dafoe made 30 saves and outduelled Danyil Hasek as the Boston Bruins beat the Buffalo Sabres 2-1 on Saturday for their fourth straight victory.

Red Wings 4, Rangers 3
Visiting Detroit raced to a four-goal lead behind Kirk Maltby and Nicklas Lidstrom and held off a late rally by New York.

Kings 3, Coyotes 2
Sean O'Donnell scored the go-ahead goal with 7:19 left in the third period and fellow defenseman Rob Blake scored his 20th as Los Angeles won at home.

Penguins 4, Flyers 3
Ron Francis got his 1,000th assist in the Pittsburgh franchise's 1,000th win as host Pittsburgh ended the Flyers' six-game unbeaten streak.

Avalanche 2, Sharks 0
Valeri Kamenykh broke a scoreless tie in the third period and Patrick Roy had his fourth shutout of the season to lead Colorado to a road win.

Phoenix 0 2 0-2
Los Angeles 0 0 1-3

First Period—1, Los Angeles, Blake 20 (Nelson, Stumpert, 14:00). Second Period—2, Phoenix, Yundtovsky 5 (Mummen, 8:10) (pp), 4, Phoenix, Blake 1 (Barnes, 8:58). Third Period—5, Los Angeles, O'Donnell 2 (Lapierre, 12:41), Goles—Phoenix, White, Los Angeles, Finn 2-1-4, A-14,877.

Colorado 0 0 2-2
San Jose 0 0 0-0

First Period—None, Second Period—None, Third Period—1, Colorado, Kamenykh 26 (Forberg, 8:38), Goles—Colorado, Roy, San Jose, Vernon 1-1-3, A-17,453.

Boston 1 1 0-2
Buffalo 0 0 1-3

First Period—1, Boston, Asselin 6 (Ledyard, 4:34) (pp), Second Period—2, Boston, Bourque 12 (Sweeney, 11:51) (pp), Third Period—3, Buffalo, Plante 12 (Sanderson, 10:14), Goles—Boston, Plante, Buffalo, Hasek, A-15,995.

Philadelphia 1 1 1-3
Pittsburgh 0 0 2-4

First Period—1, Philadelphia, LeClair 42 (Colley, 14:00), Second Period—2, Pittsburgh, Francis 23 (Barnes, 8:58) (pp), 3, Philadelphia, LeClair 42 (Colley, 14:00), 4, Pittsburgh, O'Donnell 2 (Lapierre, 12:41), Goles—Philadelphia, Hasek, Pittsburgh, Borsasso, Sweeney, A-17,145.

Detroit 2 2 0-3
N.Y. Rangers 0 0 1-3

First Period—1, Detroit, Maltby 12, 12:5, 2, Detroit, Dwyer 11 (Murphy, Maltby, 7:41), Second Period—3, Detroit, Lidstrom 16 (Yzerman, Murphy, 4:16) (pp), 4, Detroit, Brown 14 (Fedorov, Lidstrom, 10:14), 5, New York, Kovalev 14 (Letcher, Driver, 17:47) (pp), Third Period—5, New York, Sweeney 11 (Driver, Glatzier, 3:33) (pp), 7, New York, Kovalev 15 (Glatzier, Sundstrom, 11:05), Goles—Detroit, Hodson, New York, Richter, A-18,200.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Rangers	42	18	9	93	194	135
Philadelphia	35	21	11	81	199	155
Washington	32	26	11	75	183	175
N.Y. Islanders	22	30	17	61	172	192
N.Y. Islanders	22	35	10	54	172	192
Florida	18	38	12	48	159	214
Tampa Bay	16	43	9	41	134	215

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	36	19	14	86	196	161
Boston	31	24	13	75	180	161
Montreal	32	28	9	73	198	175
Buffalo	28	25	17	71	173	159
Ottawa	27	29	12	66	161	169
Carolina	16	34	7	59	161	184

Lightning 5, Panthers 1
Mikael Renberg had a hat-trick and host Tampa Bay scored four power-play goals in handing Florida its 12th straight loss.

Devils 3, Capitals 2
Dave Andreychuk scored the game winner and host New Jersey's slumping power play scored twice against the NHL's top penalty killers.

Mighty Ducks 5, Canadiens 4
Teemu Selanne scored a pair of power-play goals to spark Anaheim to a home win.

Canucks 1, Maple Leafs 1
Alexander Mogilny scored on a breakaway 62 seconds into the third period to give visiting Vancouver the tie in a battle of teams fighting for their playoff lives.

Oilers 2, Blues 0
Doug Weight and Rem Murray scored and Curtis Joseph stopped 20 shots as Edmonton won at home.

The shutout was Joseph's third in the last 10 days.

Florida 0 0 1-1
Tampa Bay 0 0 2-3

First Period—None, Second Period—1, Tampa Bay, Selanne 15 (Richter, 10:59) (pp), 2, Tampa Bay, Selanne 15 (Richter, 10:59) (pp), 3, Florida, Murphy 6 (Gagne, 13:23) (pp), Third Period—2, Tampa Bay, Renberg 12 (Richter, 13:23) (pp), 5, Tampa Bay, Renberg 12 (Richter, 13:23) (pp), 6, Tampa Bay, Renberg 12 (Richter, 13:23) (pp), 7, Tampa Bay, Renberg 12 (Richter, 13:23) (pp), 8, Tampa Bay, Renberg 12 (Richter, 13:23) (pp), 9, Tampa Bay, Renberg 12 (Richter, 13:23) (pp), 10, Tampa Bay, Renberg 12 (Richter, 13:23) (pp), 11, Tampa Bay, Renberg 12 (Richter, 13:23) (pp), 12, Tampa Bay, Renberg 12 (Richter, 13:23) (pp), 13, Tampa Bay, Renberg 12 (Richter, 13:23) (pp), 14, Tampa Bay, Renberg 12 (Richter, 13:23) (pp), 15, Tampa Bay, Renberg 12 (Richter, 13:23) (pp), 16, Tampa Bay, Renberg 12 (Richter, 13:23) (pp), 17, Tampa Bay, Renberg 12 (Richter, 13:23) (pp), 18, Tampa Bay, Renberg 12 (Richter, 13:23) (pp), 19, Tampa Bay, Renberg 12 (Richter, 13:23) (pp), 20, Tampa Bay, Renberg 12 (Richter, 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Bay, Renberg 12 (Richter, 13:23) (pp), 303, Tampa Bay, Renberg 12 (Richter, 13:23) (pp), 304, Tampa Bay, Renberg 12 (Richter, 13:23) (

Inside

T-wolves
sweep
Grizzlies

Page 22

Cross-
country
double for
O'Sullivan

Page 21

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori LewisNetanya
relegated

By ELI GRONER

Hapoel Holon squeaked past Maccabi Netanya 65-63 for a road victory in a sloppily played game in the Sprite Basketball League last night, a result which consigns Netanya to the Second Division next season.

Netanya started the season 1-15 before reeling off an incredible four-game winning streak, but it was not enough to save them.

Despite the win, relegation-threatened Holon isn't out of the water yet. Givat Shmuel's 81-78 victory over Galil Elyon means that Holon must beat Maccabi Ra'anana next week and hope for Kiryat Motzkin to lose in Eilat.

In other action, Ra'anana clinched second place and home-court advantage until the finals with its 86-81 victory over Hapoel Jerusalem, coupled with Herzliya's 76-75 triumph over Hapoel Eilat.

Meanwhile Maccabi Tel Aviv whipped Kiryat Motzkin, which suddenly also finds itself in danger of being demoted. And Rishon LeZion lost to Ramat Gan, ensuring that it avoids Maccabi Tel Aviv's bracket in the playoffs.

Holon 65 Netanya 63
Four free throws by Joe Wiley and Danny Gut in the final 23 seconds ensured the victory and left Holon with a chance at remaining in the first division next year.

Netanya's two-point loss epitomized a season replete with disappointing "might have beens." In the end, Coach Haim Kimmelman's valiant efforts weren't enough to undo the damage which previous coach Ralph Klein had inflicted on the squad.

Ra'anana 86 Jerusalem 81
With Ra'anana trailing by two and 23 seconds remaining, Paul Thompson buried an off-balance three-pointer as the shot clock expired, giving Ra'anana an 82-81 lead, en route to the victory.

Thompson led all scorers with 26 points, while Rotem Ehrlich added 15 points and ten assists.

Sprite Basketball League			
	P	W	L
Maccabi Tel Aviv	21	17	4
Maccabi Ra'anana	21	15	6
Hapoel Eilat	21	14	7
Hapoel Jerusalem	21	13	8
Galil Elyon	21	12	9
Maccabi Rishon	21	12	9
Bnei Herzliya	21	10	11
Ramat Gan	21	8	13
Givat Shmuel	21	7	14
Kiryat Motzkin	21	7	14
Hapoel Holon	21	6	15
Maccabi Netanya	21	5	16

SCOREBOARD

SWIMMING - Israel's Anja Costaschky set a new national record in the 50 meters butterfly at the World Cup short-course meeting in Gelsenkirchen, Germany yesterday.

Costaschky reached the final with a time of 28.44 seconds, breaking the old mark by 0.08 seconds.

On Saturday Costaschky set a new 200 meters backstroke record with a time of 2:14.74.

ENGLISH SOCCER - First Division results yesterday: Middlesbrough 3, Norwich 0.

ITALIAN SOCCER - Results of Serie A matches yesterday: Atalanta 1, Empoli 0; Bari 0, Sampdoria 1; Fiorentina 1, Bologna 1; Lazio 0, Fiorentina 1; Napoli 2, Lecce 4; Parma 2, Juventus 1; Udinese 3, Brescia 1; Venezia 1, AS Roma 1.

'Sunday Times' reports World Cup bomb plot

Belgian prosecutor denies Islamic extremists were planning to attack French soccer targets

LONDON (AP) - Seven Algerian terrorist suspects arrested in Belgium were linked to a plot by Islamic extremists to mount a bombing campaign at the World Cup soccer tournament in France this summer, *The Sunday Times* reported this weekend.

However, Belgian authorities said yesterday there was no indication the Algerians, arrested in a March 3 shoot-out in Brussels, planned an attack on the World Cup.

Brochures about the tournament found during the raid were routine publicity leaflets, said Berengere Haegeman, a

spokeswoman for the state prosecution service in Brussels, the Belgian capital.

"There is no indication whatsoever to say a World Cup attack was being planned," Haegeman said.

In London, *The Sunday Times* said the World Cup brochures were found along with a large quantity of liquid explosives. It added that Raymond Kendall, the British director of Interpol who visited Algeria last week, has said the arrested Algerians appeared to be a support group supplying forged passports, weapons and money rather than an

operational unit.

"Security sources believe a threat therefore remains to the World Cup," the newspaper said in a front-page story.

The tournament, which is held every four years, starts in June. French officials have said security is a major concern.

Belgian authorities briefed police and intelligence officials from seven countries, including Britain, on their inquiry last week, *The Sunday Times* said.

"You don't need to be a big specialist on terrorism to realize that very many people

will be gathering together for the World Cup," Christian Valkeneer, the Belgian judge leading the inquiry, was quoted as saying. "It is a good opportunity for anybody who wants to attack France."

One of the men arrested in the raids, French-born Farid Melouk, 32, was a key figure in a European network supplying arms, false papers and money to extremists in Algeria, Belgian authorities said.

Melouk, an expert forger, provided logistical support to a group accused of massacres in Algeria and bombings in France, Bart van

Lysbeth, a spokesman for Belgium's state security service, said earlier this month.

In his absence, Melouk was sentenced last month by a Paris court to seven years in prison for "criminal association with a terrorist group" and "falsification of administrative documents."

Melouk and the others arrested in Brussels are thought to be members of a breakaway wing of the Armed Islamic Group, known by its French initials as the GIA, which has carried out massacres in Algeria, *The Sunday Times* said.

Utah, NC reach Final Four

NEW YORK (AP) - It was a "Cat-a-strophe" of massive proportions.

Defending NCAA champion Arizona, stymied by a combination of Utah's stifling defense and its own horrendous shooting, was stunned 76-51 by the third-seeded Utah in Saturday's West Regional championship.

The Utes, rarely mentioned on the same level as the nation's basketball powers, handed the Wildcats their worst postseason loss ever. Arizona lost to Kentucky by 24 points in the 1946 National Invitation Tournament.

Andre Miller, called the second-best point guard in the West by coach Rick Majerus, had a triple-double in outplaying the best, Arizona's Mike Bibby. The junior from Los Angeles had 18 points and career-highs of 14 rebounds and 13 assists.

The Utes (29-3) are headed to San Antonio on Saturday for their first Final Four in 32 years. They finished fourth in 1966 and won the NCAA title in 1944 when just eight teams played.

The Wildcats (30-5), trying to become the first repeat champions since Duke in 1991-92, never had any momentum from the opening tip.

Famed for an ability to knock teams out with massive scoring spurts, the Wildcats couldn't get into their run-and-gun offense against Utah's slower tempo. Instead, the Utes put together the game's three big surges, including a 12-2 run early in the second half that had Arizona down 18 points.

The Wildcats came in with just one loss in their last 24 games, averaging an NBA-like 91.9 points. They had never scored less than 70 this season, with Bibby, Miles Simon and Michael Dickerson accounting for 58 percent of their points.

But Utah's defense silenced Arizona's big scoring guns, who were a combined 6 of 36 shooting. Bibby, the playmaker with prowess for getting the ball into his teammates' hands, had one assist, no 3-pointers on seven attempts and seven points. Simon and Dickerson had six points each.

Sixth-man Jason Terry led Arizona with 16 points.

Utah isn't given the respect accorded schools from more high-profile conferences, but the Utes overcame the Wildcats with a total team effort.

Miller constantly attacked Arizona's defense, driving the lane or distorting off to Michael Doleac (16 points, 11 rebounds) and Hanno Motzola (14 points), who make up a Utah frontline that controlled the boards, 49-34.

The Wildcats barely scored a point a minute in the first half when they were held to 20, their lowest in two seasons.

For the game, the Wildcats were 17 of 60 and just 4 of 22 from 3-point range. Anytime they managed two straight baskets, the Utes cut them off.

North Carolina 75, Connecticut 64

The rookie coach just kept rolling along. Top-ranked North Carolina advanced to the Final Four for the 14th time, the fifth time in the '90s, the second year in a row and the first time under coach Bill Guthridge with a 75-64 victory over Connecticut in the East Regional final on Saturday.

The 60-year-old Guthridge may be 10 Final Four appearances behind Dean Smith, his boss for the previous 30 seasons, but this trip ties North Carolina with UCLA for the most in



North Carolina's Vince Carter slam dunks in the victory over UConn on Saturday.

the history of college basketball.

The Tar Heels (34-3) also tied the school record for victories, matching the total of the 1993 national championship team, and made Guthridge the winningest rookie coach ever, surpassing the 33-1 mark set by Indiana State's Bill Hodges in 1979.

North Carolina, the top seed in the East, will face Utah, which beat defending national champion Arizona 76-51 in the West Regional final, next Saturday in San Antonio in one national semifinal.

Connecticut (32-5) was trying to

reach the Final Four for the first time. The Huskies have lost all four regional finals they have played in, including ones in 1990 and 1995.

North Carolina held off several runs by the Huskies.

Connecticut closed to 59-58 with 5:37 left on a three-point play by Khalid El-Amin.

All-America Antawn Jamison then scored on a dunk off a brilliant tip pass by Vince Carter and added a rebound basket with 4:01 remaining.

After a Connecticut turnover, Ed Cota scored on a pass from Carter 39

seconds later and the lead was seven.

Connecticut scored, with 3:03, to play on a back-in move by Kevin Freeman, but North Carolina closed the game with a 10-4 run to get back to the Final Four.

Jamison had 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Tar Heels, his fourth double-double in as many NCAA tournament games, while Shammond Williams had 19 points and Carter added 12. Cota finished with eight points, nine assists and eight rebounds.

El-Amin led Connecticut with 24 points and Richard Hamilton had 15, all on 3-pointers. Hamilton, named Big East player of the year as a sophomore, went to the floor hard with 16:35 to play. He rimmed with 14:26 left and finished 5-for-21 from the field, including 5-for-14 from beyond the arc.

Jamison was the unanimous choice as the MVP of the regional.

Most Final Fours
(Through Saturday's games)

1. North Carolina, UCLA
2. Kentucky
3. Duke
4. Kansas
5. Ohio State
6. Indiana, Louisville
7. Arkansas
8. Cincinnati, Michigan

NCAA at a Glance

All times EST

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

EAST REGIONAL

Saturday's result: North Carolina 75, Connecticut 64.

SOUTH REGIONAL

Yesterday/Duke (32-3) vs. Kentucky (32-4), 5 p.m.

MIDWEST REGIONAL

Yesterday: Stanford (29-4) vs. Rhode Island (25-8), 2:40 p.m.

WEST REGIONAL

Saturday's result: Utah 75, Arizona 51.

THE FINAL FOUR

At The Alamodome, San Antonio.

Saturday: First game starts at 5:42 p.m. North Carolina (34-3) vs. Utah (29-3), TBA. South champion vs. Midwest champion, TBA.

National Championship

Monday, March 30. Semifinal winners, 9:18 p.m.

England keep Triple
Crown hopes alive

EDINBURGH (Reuters)

England kept alive their hopes of a Triple Crown with a 34-20 Five Nations victory over Scotland at Murrayfield yesterday but they were largely unable to produce the entertaining, expansive rugby they had hoped to play.

A penalty try just after the interval and second-half tries from scrumhalf Matt Dawson, winger Austin Healey and flyhalf Paul Grayson sealed the victory for England. Grayson also kicked one penalty, one drop goal and four conversions for a total 19 points.

But for most of the match the Scots stopped the England backs from throwing the ball around with the same confidence as they had done in their thrashing of Wales last month.

Scotland softened the defeat with two tries in injury time from wingers Tony Stanger and Shaun Longstaff.

After a lackluster first half which finished 6-6, England's forwards carved out the victory with some determined play. The penalty try was given in the 49th minute when the

Scots collapsed a scrum as the English were going for a pushover try.

In the 62nd minute Dawson effectively sealed the match when he dived over under the posts after a break by center Will Greenwood. Healey made sure in the 67th minute when he kicked ahead and touched down near the right-hand corner.

The most entertaining try of the match came with four minutes to go when Grayson side-stepped his way past a tired defence to finish off the England scoring.

England, who play Ireland at home in their last match of the championship, deserved the victory but they took a long time to break down a Scottish side who have been far from impressive this season.

Five Nations standings			
	P	W	L
France	3	3	0
England	3	2	1
Wales	3	2	1
Scotland	4	1	3
Ireland	3	0	3

Remaining fixtures: Apr 4 - England v Ireland, Apr 5 - Wales v France.

Lambert and Lara
pile on the agony

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua (Reuters)

Clayton Lambert struck his first Test hundred in only his third appearance and Brian Lara lashed 89 in 94 balls as West Indies took charge against England yesterday.

Lambert, who made 104, fellow opener Philo Wallace, with 92, and Lara spurred West Indies to 318 for three at tea on the third day of the sixth and final Test at the Antigua Recreation Ground.

At tea, West Indies led by 191, having routed England for 127 in their first innings.

Lambert, who returned to the Test arena in the previous match in Bridgetown after an absence of six and a half years, made his hundred in 345 minutes off 220 balls, hitting 10 fours and a six.

Wallace, who had played in a calm and assured way after his fireworks on the second day, did not make a mistake until he was out for 92, playing on off the bottom edge in Dean Headley's second over.

There was a disappointed silence when he was out but he was roared off the ground and Lara, next man in, waited at the dressing room steps to shake his hand and give him an affectionate hug.

Wallace and Lambert had been together for 42 overs to score 167, and his innings had lasted three hours during which he faced 135 balls and hit 11 fours and a six.

Levy upsets Behr to win Jaffa tourney

By HEATHER CHAIT

Harel Levy surprised Israel's Davis Cup tennis player Noam Behr yesterday morning to win the final of the international tournament in Jaffa.

Unseeded Levy added the win over fourth-seeded Behr to his triumph over top seed Eyal Erlich in the quarter-finals.

Levy beat Behr 6-3, 6-3.

In the parallel women's tournament top seed Tzipi Ozilzer coasted to a 6-3, 6-3 win over Nadejda Ostrovskaya from Belarus.

Erlich is again the top seed for the second tournament which begins today in Ashkelon. Second seed is Eyal Ran who returned to Israel after losing in the qualifying rounds of the

Lipton Championships in Key Biscayne, Florida.

Ran, Erlich and Behr are honing their skills in the run-up to next weekend's Davis Cup tie against Austria at Ramat Hasharon.

The Austrian team is due in Israel on Wednesday to hold training camps in Eilat and Ramat Hasharon.

Meanwhile, in Key Biscayne, Anna Smashnova showed a return to form as she advanced from the qualifying rounds to the first round where she defeated Spain's Virginia Ruano-Pascual (50 in the WTA rankings).

Smashnova, currently ranked 164, won 6-1, 6-1. She lost in the next round, however, going down to another Spaniard, ninth-seeded Conchita Martinez 6-4, 6-2.

Heat turned up on Newcastle directors

LONDON (Reuters) - The two directors at the center of the Newcastle United "sleaze" row came under further intense pressure yesterday after fresh allegations in the tabloid press.

The pair, chairman Freddy Shepherd, 56, and his deputy Doug Hall, 39, remained in their posts ahead of a board meeting today and the publication of the club's interim financial results tomorrow.

But Kevin Miles, spokesman for the Newcastle United Independent Supporters' Association, called their refusal to quit as "a display of breath-taking arrogance." He told BBC Radio 5 Live yesterday they had defied public opinion on Tyne-side and 98 percent of local people felt they should stand down.

The saga began last Sunday when the *News of the World* alleged that Hall and Shepherd

had insulted star striker Alan Shearer, ridiculed fans for paying over-inflated prices for replica shirts and described Newcastle's women as "dogs."

They were also said to have admitted they had known Andy Cole was suffering a serious injury when the club sold him to Manchester United.

An apology from the pair last Wednesday failed to placate furious fans.

Yesterday, the *News of the World* printed transcripts from a tape made in what is described as a "lap-dancing" bar in Puerto Banus near Marbella in Spain.

The men, believing they were talking to a Middle-East businessman, are documented as making a series of remarks, some of them sexual.

Readers are invited to phone a special line at

50p a minute to hear more from the transcript but warns that the pair cover some "seamy adult subjects." Clips of a video showing the men on a settee and Hall talking about a brothel in Amsterdam were shown on Sky TV yesterday.

The *Sunday Mirror* also alleged that Hall had asked a woman, described as a lap dancer, if she had any cocaine, though Hall's lawyer said on Friday he had never taken drugs.

Shepherd was said to have flown to Barbados on Saturday.

Meanwhile, England striker Shearer is said in various Sunday papers to be ready to quit United if they are relegated.

But elsewhere he is quoted as saying there is no crisis at the club and that he is looking forward to the FA Cup semifinal against first division Sheffield United.

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